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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, November 5, 2007, at 12.30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2007

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Give our Senators this day, O God, reverence to realize Your presence, humility to know their own needs, trust to ask for Your help, and obedience to accept Your plan. Walk with them as they labor. Help them to remember that there is no purity without vigilance, no learning without study, and no mastery without discipline. Remind them also that there is no joy without service, no discipleship without devotion, and no crown without a cross.

Help our lawmakers to be willing, Lord, to pay the price required to honor You. May they know that true wisdom is to fear You and true understanding is to shun evil. Strengthen their resolve to always choose the right and to refuse the wrong.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN 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. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN 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. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business today, with Members allowed to speak therein for whatever time they feel is appropriate.

There will be no rollcall votes today or tomorrow as a result of our being able to work something out on a very contentious Children's Health Initiative Program.

Next week, it is expected the Senate will receive the veto message on the water resources conference report. This measure passed with overwhelming votes in both the House and Senate. If it continues to have broad, bipartisan support, the veto will be overridden.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2293 AND S. 2294

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2293) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the individual alternative minimum tax, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2294) to strengthen immigration enforcement and border security, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these bills.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The measures will be placed on the calendar.

MUST DO LEGISLATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I had a long meeting last night with the Speaker of the House and Senate Members, which lasted several hours. It is very clear that next week is going to be a very difficult week. The following week is going to be very difficult—important but difficult.

The reason I mention this is we had the obligation, procedurally, to vote this morning at 1 a.m., but we were able to work that out as a result of a unanimous consent request, which was very helpful. It avoided the necessity of our working this weekend. We only have one weekend left until Thanksgiving. I hope we can work everything out.

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



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I don't think we can. I have a very busy, difficult schedule next weekend, but I am not sure I am going to meet the obligations I have already committed myself to—I want everybody else to understand—including parades and other events on Veterans Day. What do we have to do? We have to send appropriations bills to the President. At least the Labor/HHS bill, which is now tied in with the VA military construction—we need to send that to the President. We have a time schedule to do that.

We have to do the Defense appropriations bill. It is something we have to consider getting to the President as soon as possible. We have to do a continuing resolution. There is some talk about doing a bridge fund for Iraq. Chairman BYRD is talking about marking up in a week or 10 days the supplemental appropriations bill. We have numerous other things. It is very difficult.

Monday is not a vote day, so we have 4 days next week. So I say, with all sincerity, I am going to call our Presidential candidates and let them know they better look at their schedules because these are not votes you can miss—Defense appropriations; the first appropriations bill, Labor/HHS, with benefits for veterans tied into it, which we need to do before Veterans Day; the CR, which funds our Government; and whatever we decide to do with the bridge funds or the supplemental appropriations bill.

So everyone should be alerted to the fact that they better have their schedules somewhat loose for this coming weekend and, I repeat, Monday. There is always a way, it seems, to try to work out some of these difficulties. I hope we can find a way to not do it next Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, but we have to be prepared.

The things I have talked about doing are not things we can do some other time. We have to do them before we leave for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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 now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The senior Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

SCHIP REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, yesterday I voted with great enthusiasm for the SCHIP reauthorization bill. I think the present version is commendable and a version we should support. I particularly thank Leader REID, Chairman

BAUCUS, and Senator ROCKEFELLER for their efforts, and I commend them.

The bill provides an additional \$35 billion to preserve coverage for all 6.6 million children currently enrolled, and it expands coverage to an additional 4 million children.

The President and House Republicans have already denied these children access to health care once, by first vetoing the legislation and then sustaining the veto in the House of Representatives. I hope this version can pass without a veto. If it is vetoed, I hope the veto can be overridden.

The President's proposal, rather than expanding coverage, would in fact dramatically restrict coverage, dropping 1.4 million children and pregnant women. That is according to the Congressional Budget Office. So there is a very stark choice between an administration that wants to restrict coverage for children and this legislation, which would maintain, and indeed expand, that coverage to cover 10 million children in the United States.

With respect to Rhode Island, this bill adds an additional \$75 million in Federal funds on the table. It has to be matched, but this would allow the State of Rhode Island to maintain its program of health care for children. The bill would prevent shortfalls that have periodically cropped up, where the State found itself expending all of its funds and hoping there would be a redistribution of funds from other States that have not used their funds.

Last year, and again early this year, I fought for \$56 million in Federal funds to cover Rhode Island's shortfall. But these 11th-hour stopgap measures are not sustainable. The legislation we passed yesterday would prevent my State from being in a constant situation of shortfalls, hoping that other States have excess funds, and depending upon individuals in our delegation to get those funds for Rhode Island.

If President Bush and the House Republicans fail to enact this bill—if he vetoes it, and they sustain that veto—21 States will be at risk of shortfalls, totaling \$1.6 billion. Rhode Island will have a shortfall of \$44.1 million, beginning next March. We can predict that today. I don't know where my State would get that \$44 million. It is in a severe budget crisis. State leaders are talking about trying to find \$100 million to \$200 million in cuts, which in our budget is a significant amount of money. So the idea that they would have to come up with \$44 million on top of that is something that would be a very difficult challenge for Rhode Island.

If Republicans do not enact this bill, we must fully fund an extension that covers these shortfalls. We will be back next spring scrambling to find money to keep these programs functioning. I hope we can prevail at this juncture to create a program and funding that will be sustainable, predictable, and supportive of efforts in my State, and many States across the country, to

reach out and insure children for their health care needs.

The President's opposition is not based on fact or common sense or, indeed, even common decency; it seems to be based on ideology. He says families would switch from private insurance to government-run health care. But the number of uninsured is rising because private insurance is too expensive. In Rhode Island, the average family premium for a year is \$11,924. If you look at a typical working family in Rhode Island, it is struggling now to pay its mortgage. We have seen what is happening in the mortgage market, where many of these families, in order to get into a home, signed up for what are termed an "exotic" mortgage. In my State, foreclosures are at record-high levels. People cannot keep up with their mortgage payments. Then, added to that dilemma, wages have essentially been flat over the last 5 to 6 years, mortgage payments are going up, the price of gasoline is now reaching significant heights, and it is estimated that this winter heating oil in New England will be 20 percent more expensive than last winter. Are you then going to tell them: Oh, just go out and buy private health insurance for \$11,000 a year?

That makes no sense for working families in Rhode Island. They are struggling to keep their homes and, literally, to keep the lights on and keep it a little warm during the wintertime. For many of these people, private health insurance, at \$11,000 a year, is way beyond their reach. So to sit there and seriously insist that this is a real choice for these families—a choice of getting into a public program or buying private insurance—verges on the ridiculous.

Without the SCHIP program, thousands of families in my State—and millions of children across the country—will not have health care. There is no choice.

There is also the President's argument that this is socialized medicine. I believe that is a gross misrepresentation. In Rhode Island, children are enrolled in private plans, and enrollees can choose their doctor. In fact, there is another program like this, called Medicare. I don't see the President rallying against Medicare, saying how it is socialized medicine. In fact, I can recall he proposed—and this Congress supported—one of the largest expansions of Medicare by adopting a drug benefit. That costs the Federal Government billions of dollars, and there is no discussion about that.

These arguments are baseless. The President says this bill costs too much. In fact, this bill is fully paid for; it is one of the few things in the last 6 to 7 years that has been fully paid for. It is paid for by a cigarette tax, and it is in sharp contrast to the President's repeated request for money for Iraq and Afghanistan, which is not paid for. He is spending about \$12 billion a month. Of that money, over the last several

years in Iraq, we have invested in items such as building Iraqi health care clinics and providing health care for Iraqis. In trying to reestablish stability in that country, the President recognizes that to have a decent, well-ordered society, you have to have access to health care for citizens. The problem is, he doesn't seem to recognize it here as much. So I believe we have to support this legislation.

The President also says the bill doesn't target low-income children. In fact, 80 percent of newly insured children would be from families below 200 percent of poverty. That is a pretty good target.

He talks about the bill expanding coverage to families making \$80,000 a year. That was always a misrepresentation. But we make it clear in this bill that eligibility is capped at 300 percent of poverty; that is, families making \$60,000 a year. That sounds like a lot, but if you are in a major urban area, with rents costing \$1,000 to \$1,500 to \$1,800 a month for just a fairly—and I emphasize “fairly”—decent two-bedroom apartment for your family, when you do the math, these people are not in a situation of excess wealth by any means.

In Rhode Island, 10,000 children remain uninsured. We can do much better. The Rhode Island program provides family-based health insurance. Rhode Island does enroll parents in this health care program. They found that it helps when the whole family is part of the delivery system. It has enhanced their ability to recruit children into the system. It has enhanced, in their view, health outcomes because now we have a family engaged rather than an individual child.

I think it is appropriate in Rhode Island that we have such a forward-thinking and progressive approach because the basic SCHIP program was, in many respects, the work of Senator John H. Chafee, my colleague, a former Republican Senator who was succeeded by his son Lincoln Chafee in this Chamber. Senator Chafee, who was a pragmatic, hardnosed Republican whose values were to provide opportunity to all citizens in the nation, understood that if we could deliver effective health care to children in this country, we would go a long way to give them the physical tools to be successful in school, to succeed in the workplace, and ultimately to be citizens of this great country. He fought hard for this program. He didn't do it on an ideological basis; he did it on a very pragmatic, practical basis. His success has been demonstrated over the last 10 years because we have given more children access to health care.

There are countless stories that will be forever unknown to us, but they will be decisive in the lives of children because this program has made a difference in their lives. Where they would have suffered with an undiagnosed disease that would have impaired their ability to thrive in

school and work, because they had simple, preventive health care early on, they have been successful in school, and they will be successful in life. Families have been relieved of one of the most grievous fears they carry, and that is: Oh, my gosh, what happens if my child gets sick; I have no health care coverage—the gnawing fear at night that something could happen the next day and you have no way to protect your child because you cannot afford to get them health care. That fear has been relieved.

There is a very popular commercial from one of the credit card companies: Such and such an item, \$10; such and such an item, \$9; having the ability to do this, priceless. For families, having the confidence that they have health care is priceless, and this bill has helped them.

I hope the President will sign this bill, and if he doesn't—if he continues to roam through his ideological warehouse and pick out different odds and ends to justify this veto—then I hope the House Republicans have the courage to stand up and say: No, we are going to do what is right for the children of America, not just what is politically convenient for the President.

Mr. President, 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.

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

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

FIGHTING FOR THE PEOPLE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I have had the opportunity, similar to all my colleagues throughout the week and in previous times, to have heard on the floor the lament from the distinguished Republican leader of the Senate and other Republican colleagues about how they wished we had the appropriations bills done or how more should be done. I come to the floor today to talk about the reality of what is happening.

We know, in politics, unfortunately, folks decide on a message and keep saying it over and over again, hoping in fact someone will believe it, even if it doesn't jibe with what the actual facts are.

We also know, at the beginning of the year, folks all over this country—people working hard every day who care about their families and expect to have services that work and expect to have someone eyeing the fiscal situation in the country and challenging what is happening in the war and caring about their children and so on—looked for a new direction. They voted for a new direction for this country, a new set of priorities.

People working hard every day want to know somebody is out there fighting

for them. I am proud to say I am part of a group of people, a group of Democrats who understand that people are feeling squeezed on all sides—higher gas prices, higher health care costs, they are seeing tuition go up for their children, their jobs being threatened. In my home State of Michigan, we have 7.5 percent unemployment. People are losing jobs, they are losing incomes. People are looking around saying: Who is fighting for us? We play by the rules. We love our country. We send our husbands and wives and sons and daughters to defend our country. Who, in fact, is on our side, looking out for us and making sure the rules in this country create a way for everybody to work hard and succeed and, in fact, there is competency and integrity in Government?

That is what we came into this year, in January. We came into this new year understanding, as a new majority, we are here to fight for middle-class Americans who work hard every day and those working hard to get into the middle class, those who want to have the American dream available for themselves and their families. People who believe right now our American way of life is slipping want us to fight for them. I am proud to say that is exactly what we have done.

It has not been easy because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I understand, have lost the majority. Unfortunately, their political strategy is to try to stop us from actually making a difference in the lives of middle-class Americans, so when we get to the end of the term, they can say: See, there is no difference between Democrats and Republicans—when, in fact, we all know there are substantial differences in priorities, in views of America, and whose side we are on.

As a strategy, we have seen filibuster after filibuster and something called “cloture” in the Senate which, to the average person, basically means we are seeing filibusters, a requirement for 60 votes rather than just a majority, which is how we should be operating under the democratic process.

We have seen a historic number. Never before, in fact, have we seen, at this point in time, 52 filibusters—52 and counting. My guess is next week it will be 53 and 54 and 55 and 56 and go on and on in efforts to slow things down, efforts to slow down the new direction we believe in, that we are fighting for, to slow down those things that will make a real difference in the lives of Americans.

We understand the strategy. We operate under this every week. We come to the floor and have to fight to get beyond a filibuster. I am proud to say we have done that. As we come to the end of our first year as a majority, we are, in fact, changing the direction of this country. We are, in fact, getting results for Americans, for middle-class Americans, who work hard every day and want somebody to be fighting for them, for an opportunity for them and

their children to have the American dream. I am very proud of that, despite 52 filibusters.

We have a leader who is tenacious, who is determined, who is smart—who comes to the floor every day and spends his time trying to make sure we can stop the filibusters and refocus on getting results for middle-class Americans. That is what we have done. I wish to take a moment today to share some of the results we are getting. Is it slower than we would like? Yes, when you are trying to battle 52 filibusters, things are slower than we would like to have happen. But we are not going to stop because this is not about politics. This should not be about election year strategy. This is about people every day in this country who see the American dream slipping away from them, who are worried their children will not have the same opportunities for our great American life that we have had. They are saying to us we want you to go in and fight for us and the greatness of America. We want to make sure that opportunity is there for everybody. That is what America is all about.

We are, in fact, getting results for middle-class Americans every single day, those folks who believe—and for good reason have believed for the past 6 years under this President and the former Congress—that nobody is looking out for them and the opportunities they need. We are, in fact, getting results for middle-class Americans.

We started this year—it is amazing to me to hear colleagues speak about how there is not a budget so far, when in fact they didn't even do a budget at all last year, not at all. We got to the end of the year: No budget. So we came in as a new majority and we had to go back and clean things up from the previous majority. We had to go back, figure out a way to get a budget for the current year that was already going, that had already been in place for 3 or 4 months. We, in fact, did that, and we did a number of things in that process, in putting that budget together—even though it was a continuation budget for the rest of the year, to complete the business that had not been done in the last Congress. But we also did a few things in that process. We said, even though this is a short-term continuation budget, there are too many young people struggling to go to college, so we put in a Pell increase. We said, there are too many veterans who have served us proudly, who are coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan and don't have the health care they need, so we put in some additional dollars for veterans health care into that budget.

We passed that continuation budget and then we went to work on the budget that, in fact, we are responsible for. After having done the work of our Republican colleagues, we put in place the budget we are now working on for this coming year. We did several things. We said: First of all, we know in the last 6 years we have seen record

deficits mount. In 2001, when President Bush came into office, when I first became a member of the Budget Committee, we saw the largest budget surpluses in the history of the country. That was squandered and turned into the largest deficits, which affect Social Security, which jeopardize Medicare and puts incredible pressure on critical safety net issues and programs for Americans, for families, and for seniors. So we said we are going to stop the digging. We know there is a hole that has been created. We are going to stop the digging and start taking us out of that hole by being fiscally responsible.

We put back in place something that was in place during President Clinton's years, which was to pay for spending. What a novel idea. That is something I try to teach my children, something we all should live by: Pay as you go; if you add something, you need to subtract something else to pay for it. So we said fiscal responsibility is important, and within that we put together a budget resolution that targeted those things middle-class Americans want to have us place as priorities: Education, No. 1; keeping our promise to our veterans, the second top priority; and children's health care, for moms and dads who are working hard every single day and could stay home and not work and qualify for Medicaid, but they choose to work.

We value work. We as a party, we as a majority, value work and want to support work. Families working hard for minimum wage in low-wage jobs, who cannot afford insurance, who don't have it on the job, ought to at least know their children can get the health insurance they need.

That is what we have been debating. That was a third priority for us, children's health care.

Then we said we are going to go back and we are going to restore the cuts in police officers on the streets. Our families, our communities want to know that their children are safe, that their homes are safe, that they are safe. We restored the COPS—police officers and firefighters, those things that are fundamental in America—safety.

We put together this budget resolution, and we are now in the process, despite filibuster after filibuster, to put the actual budget in place, the appropriations for next year.

But we have also done other things, despite 52 filibusters. We have raised the minimum wage which has not been raised for close to 10 years. Those same families—who appreciate and need to know their children can get health insurance—have not had a raise in the minimum wage for about 10 years, so we raised the minimum wage.

We then took a look at what we need to do in education and not only meeting the obligations and the promises of the laws put in place under Leave No Child Behind and the standards, but we said part of the American dream, a very important part, is being able to go to college.

So we have passed, on a bipartisan basis, and the President signed it, and we are very grateful for that—we have passed the largest increase in aid for students going to college since the GI bill, the largest financial aid since the GI bill.

We gave the second Pell grant increase this year—the second. We have done it twice now this year, to bring back the value of the Pell grant for low-income students. We have cut in half the rates for subsidized loans. We do not believe young people or older people who are going to school and getting the skills they need to compete in a global economy and make America stronger should be able—we do not believe they should come out with this huge debt that takes years and years and years to pay back.

We want to help them, both on interest rates, and we made a number of changes that make that loan process more manageable. We have targeted teachers and are encouraging teachers teaching students with high achievement to receive extra support for going into math and science and other areas that are needed in certain parts of our communities.

We have also put a loan forgiveness program in place. Bottom line, we have passed, and we, in fact, have said, education is important, and we have now done it, the largest increase in student financial aid since the GI bill.

We also did something else on a bipartisan basis. We passed the America COMPETES Act, a major focus in investment. By the way, fully paid for, all of those things are fully paid for. A major investment in math and science and technology, both in terms of education and in terms of research—this was, again, bipartisan and something that we were proud to place as a priority for this Senate. So education is at the top of the list.

We have passed cuts in taxes for small businesses as part of an effort to spur—we know the economy, the majority of the jobs, are created by small businesses. We want to support our small businesses and farmers as well as larger businesses. We have done that through various tax cuts. We have passed changes in the FDA to improve safety. We have passed a mental health parity bill to say mental health services should be available just as physical health services are available, through the health care system. If you have insurance, both should be available.

We have reauthorized Head Start because we know education is not just about college, it is about children and whether they are prepared to start at the beginning of education. We have focused on Head Start.

We know it is incredibly important that we keep us safe both at home and abroad. I am very proud of the fact that after years of trying, under the previous Congress, Democrats have been able to lead the effort to pass the 9/11 Commission recommendations. One

area of major focus for me has been on making sure the radios work, making sure that police and fire and homeland security and the State departments can all communicate. We have addressed that and passed funding efforts to be able to focus on that.

In addition, we have, as I mentioned earlier, focused on our veterans. It is shameful that we have not seen the resources put forth to support our veterans as they have been coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as our older veterans from other wars.

We, as Democrats, have made that a top priority. I am very proud of that. I know in meeting with veterans organizations that they have worked closely with us. And for the first time—for the first time—those veterans organizations have been listened to and have been a part of the process. We are funding the needed services in health care, rehabilitation, other areas, at the level that our veterans organizations have indicated we should be funding them.

So we have veterans as a top priority. We are seeing changes. We have also addressed what happened at Walter Reed through the Wounded Warrior Act. I am so proud that my colleague, the senior Senator from Michigan, has led that effort to be able to focus on wounded warriors and those who get caught between the military system and the VA system.

I will just mention a couple of other things because I could go on for a long time. There is a lot we have been getting done. Despite 52 filibusters and counting, there is a lot that we have been getting done, from ethics and lobbying reform, to help with the gulf coast revitalization, folks down in New Orleans and Mississippi, those areas that have been so devastated; reinvestment in our bridges and infrastructure; and our continuing effort to fight to change the direction in Iraq and to focus on counterterrorism and those things that will keep us safe.

We have held the President accountable. The Attorney General position has changed because the political efforts going on in the Attorney General's Office were brought forward and publicized. The light of day was shone. In fact, the Attorney General was forced to step down because of the questions and bringing to light what was happening in that department.

So there is a whole range of areas of accountability where tough questions have been asked about war profiteering, about other areas where we need to change the priorities of this Government to reflect what Americans are concerned about.

People work too hard for their money. They want to know that public services work. They want to know that we are fiscally responsible. They want to know that we are focused on the things that directly affect them and their families. We have a great country. I am very proud to be part of a majority that understands what is happening in this country today; that we

are in a fight for our way of life in a global economy.

We want this to be a race up, through education, innovation, fair trade laws, changing the way we fund health care, supporting our businesses that want to stay in the United States and do business here and employ here. We do not want a race to the bottom, a strategy that has been used by this President and the former Congress, saying: If you only work for less, we can be competitive. If you only lose your health care and lose your pension, we can be competitive. We do not care about safety standards. We let lead toys in or we let toothpaste in or dog food in because we are not worried about our trade laws. Somehow we can be competitive if we lose our standard of living.

We do not buy that. This caucus does not buy that. This Democratic Senate and House is fighting for our American way of life. We have placed the priorities of the middle-class Americans at the top of the list. They have had to wait too long for that to happen. And despite over and over again, filibuster after filibuster after filibuster to slow things down, with the determination, the tenacity of our Senate majority leader, and the support of our Members, we are getting results. We are getting results every day for middle-class Americans.

We will not lose our focus. I do not care if there are another 50 filibusters or if there are another 100 filibusters, we are going to keep focused on those things that have created the American dream, that have created the greatest country in the world.

We are going to make sure middle-class Americans know we are here fighting for those things they care about for their families.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The junior Senator from Tennessee.

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN HOOKS

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an exceptional Tennessean and a pioneer in the civil rights movement. Benjamin Hooks was born in Memphis, TN, in 1925, the fifth of seven children by Robert and Bessie Hooks.

He grew up in a loving family who taught him to succeed in both education and life. After high school, Dr. Hooks began his higher education by taking pre-law classes at LeMoyné College in Memphis. Prior to finishing his degree, he was drafted into the Army, honorably serving our country in World War II. When he returned home, he went to graduate school at Howard University and afterwards received a law degree from DePaul University in Chicago.

As Dr. Hooks went through life and excelled in various endeavors, there was one experience that greatly molded the future direction of his life: being born into and growing up in the

scourge of racial segregation. After Dr. Hooks graduated college, he returned home and vowed to do his part to end racial segregation.

Initially, he fought the fight by becoming one of the first African-American lawyers in Tennessee. It was during this time he met and married Ms. Frances Dancy. Frances was a school teacher and guidance counselor. Eventually, her career took a different path, and she became her husband's assistant, adviser, and traveling companion. They had one daughter together, Patricia Hooks Gray.

As Dr. Hooks continued to practice law, he was called to fight for civil rights from another forum, the ministry. In 1956, he was ordained a Baptist minister and began to preach regularly at the Middle Baptist Church in Memphis, TN. It was there he joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference and became a pioneer in the NAACP-sponsored restaurant sit-ins and other boycotts.

Through these efforts, he became a respected voice in the community and in the State. In 1965, Gov. Frank Clement appointed him to become the first African-American criminal court judge in Tennessee history.

His efforts as a preacher, judge, and civil rights pioneer eventually led Hooks to Washington, DC, to become the first African-American appointee to the Federal Communications Commission. There he continued the civil rights fight by addressing numerous minority representation issues in the communications industry.

In 1976, he was elected as the executive director of the NAACP, where he led that organization for more than 15 years. As a director, he helped to increase membership and fundraising efforts, as well as plan for the organization's future for 17 years.

He also broadened the scope of the NAACP by exploring national issues such as energy, the environment, the criminal justice system, welfare, and national health insurance.

Throughout his work as a civil rights advocate, he has received numerous awards, including the Humanitarian Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews, and the Freedom Award from the National Civil Rights Museum.

The University of Memphis created the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change, honoring Benjamin Hooks. The Hooks Institute works to advance understanding of the civil rights movement through teaching, research, and community programs and put an emphasis on social movements, race relations, strong communities, public education, effective public participation, and social and economic justice.

On Monday, I am pleased that Dr. Hooks will receive one more honor, one of the highest civilian awards: the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This medal is given to individuals who have

made an especially meritorious contribution to society.

Dr. Hooks is a living example of that type of person. His life is an example that even while facing adversity through hard work, you can accomplish revolutionary change. His legacy will not only continue in our State but also throughout our Nation.

So it is only fitting that through this award he once again joins the ranks of other civil rights pioneers such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Clarence M. Mitchell, Leon Howard Sullivan, and Roy Wilkins.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve in the Senate on behalf of Tennesseans such as Dr. Hooks, who have exemplified the great courage that has not only positively affected our State but our country as well.

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

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCHAR). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I thank the Presiding Officer, the Senator from Minnesota, for the work she has done on the issue I will talk about today—consumer product safety.

This year, our Nation has witnessed recall after recall after recall of contaminated products—toys, vitamins, pet food, tires, the list goes on and on. Our fundamentally flawed trade policy, mixed with an indifferent—or worse—consumer protection agency, has eroded nearly 40 years of safety standards in our Nation. In the past, until the last few years, our safety standards assured parents they could trust that their children's toys were lead free.

We are now trying to strengthen the Consumer Protection Safety Commission. I am a cosponsor of the legislation authored by Senator PRYOR that will help strengthen that agency—the agency charged with keeping our families safe from contaminated products—whether it is toys or other products.

Earlier this week, however, a New York Times story revealed that the CPSC Acting Chairwoman, Nancy Nord, is actively working against these improvements, lobbying Congress to kill this bill. That is shameful.

This morning's Washington Post revealed that, in addition to fighting agency improvements, Chairwoman Nord has enjoyed trips across the country and around the world, paid for by the very toy companies she is responsible for regulating. That is outrageous.

These were trips paid for by the toy industry, the industry that is now under scrutiny for cutting corners—

cutting corners that earn big profits for industry CEOs and sends toxic toys into our children's bedrooms.

Parents have the right to trust that their children's toys are safe. Every American has the right to trust that their Government is doing its job to keep us safe. Sadly, that does not appear to be the case with the CPSC.

Now, Chairwoman Nord claims her agency simply doesn't have the resources to do the job right. She claims the legislation now working its way through Congress would overburden her agency. Why then, one must ask, did Chairwoman Nord fail to ask for more money when she met with the Appropriations Committee earlier this year? The 2008 budget she defended before Congress doesn't even account for inflation. It leaves this agency less well equipped to prevent harm to children and to the rest of us. She stood up before the House Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee and defended this budget, never once asserting the need for additional resources.

What better opportunity could Chairwoman Nord have had to improve her agency? What better opportunity could she have had to protect our families? But she failed.

The CPSC budget is half what it was when it was created in the 1970s—in the days when most toys and consumer products were made in this country. We imported last year \$288 billion worth of products from China, tens of billions of dollars of products and toys from China and other countries that don't have a regulatory system or a Consumer Product Safety Commission or a system in place to protect consumers.

During this time, the CPSC staff dwindled from nearly 1,000 to 420. We must increase funding and staff to the CPSC. We need to increase coordination between the CPSC and Customs officials. We must give the CPSC the authority to examine and approve other nations' regulatory systems before imports from those countries show up in our children's bedrooms.

We need a leader at the CPSC who supports these goals. It is clear that Chairwoman Nord does not. She has been given the responsibility of doing everything in her power to keep our families safe and our children safe. Instead, Chairwoman Nord supports an abysmal agency budget request, is actively working against efforts to strengthen her agency, and takes trips funded by manufacturers.

Chairwoman Nancy Nord should step down. It is time to put a chairperson in place who is not satisfied with: We are doing the best we can.

We need a chairperson who fights for the authority and the resources the CPSC needs to do the job it is supposed to do—protect our families.

We need real leadership at the CPSC—leadership that doesn't side with manufacturers over consumer safety, leadership that stands up to industry pressure, leadership that puts our children and our families first.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AIR FORCE AND NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Air Force. As you are well aware, the Air Force was created by the National Security Act of 1947, the very same law that established the Department of Defense, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Like many of my colleagues in this distinguished Chamber, I represent a State with a rich history of involvement with and support for the U.S. Air Force. Less than 6 months after the Air Force was officially founded on September 18, 1947, the Las Vegas Air Force Base was reactivated to host a pilot training wing. With the onset of the Korean war, its mission changed from an advanced single-engine school to one of training jet fighter pilots for the then Far East Air Forces. And thus began a long tradition of air combat training programs held at this site that has earned this Air Force base the proud nickname "Home of the Fighter Pilot."

No single airman in Nevada history exemplified the meaning behind this slogan more than LT William H. Nellis. Born in Santa Rita, NM, in 1916, as a young man Lieutenant Nellis moved to my hometown of Searchlight, Nevada, where his father—like so many other respectable Nevadans—worked as a hard rock miner. When World War II began, Lieutenant Nellis was already married with 2 children, but this passionate young man knew he could not remain uninvolved in America's effort to rid the world of foreign oppression. After seeing a newsreel about the Army Air Corps, the precursor to the U.S. Air Force, he decided to enlist.

During the course of his valiant service, Lieutenant Nellis flew 69 missions over Europe and was shot down twice, surviving each crash and making his way back to Allied lines. Unwavering in his patriotism, he continued to volunteer to fly, doing what he saw as his duty for the great cause. Sadly, Lieutenant Nellis' last flight would come on December 27, 1944. During the Battle of the Bulge, an engagement that would cost the lives of nearly 20,000 Americans, Lieutenant Nellis was killed in action while flying with the 513th Fighter Squadron, 406 Fighter Group over Bastogne.

To honor this great Nevadan and a true American hero, the Las Vegas Air Force Base was renamed in his honor on May 20, 1950. Ever since, Nellis Air Force Base has been a stalwart of Nevada's military infrastructure and has provided U.S. airmen with the very best aerial combat training in the world.

As the pinnacle of advanced air combat aviation training, Nellis Air Force Base has provided invaluable service to the United States and its efforts in the global war on terror. The mission statement at Nellis sums it up best,

“The crews do not come to learn how to fly, but instead how to be the best combat aviators in the world.”

As we celebrate this historic occasion, we must never forget the importance of places like Nellis Air Force Base. I know many of my colleagues here in the U.S. Senate share my belief that America's ability to project its military might in the skies around the world is a direct result of the expert training programs at facilities like Nellis. Today we honor all of the men and women who have served proudly in the U.S. Air Force over the past 60 years. We owe them a tremendous amount of gratitude for their courageous sacrifices in defending the nation that we all work so hard to preserve.

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached list of subcommittee assignments for the Committee on Appropriations be printed in the RECORD, to supplant the list printed in the RECORD on February 27, 2007.

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

SUBCOMMITTEES

Senator Byrd, as chairman of the Committee, and Senator Cochran, as ranking minority member of the Committee, are ex officio members of all subcommittees of which they are not regular members.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Kohl,¹ Harkin, Dorgan, Feinstein, Durbin, Johnson, Nelson, Reed, Bennett,² Cochran, Specter, Bond, McConnell, Craig, Brownback. (8-7)

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Mikulski,¹ Inouye, Leahy, Kohl, Harkin, Dorgan, Feinstein, Reed, Lautenberg, Shelby,² Gregg, Stevens, Domenici, McConnell, Hutchison, Brownback, Alexander. (9-8)

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Senators Inouye,¹ Byrd, Leahy, Harkin, Dorgan, Durbin, Feinstein, Mikulski, Kohl, Murray, Stevens,² Cochran, Specter, Domenici, Bond, McConnell, Shelby, Gregg, Hutchison. (10-9)

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Senators Dorgan,¹ Byrd, Murray, Feinstein, Johnson, Landrieu, Inouye, Reed, Lautenberg, Domenici,² Cochran, McConnell, Bennett, Craig, Bond, Hutchison, Allard. (9-8)

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Senators Durbin,¹ Murray, Landrieu, Lautenberg, Nelson, Brownback,² Bond, Shelby, Allard. (5-4)

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Senators Byrd,¹ Inouye, Leahy, Mikulski, Kohl, Murray, Landrieu, Lautenberg, Nelson, Cochran,² Gregg, Stevens, Specter, Domenici, Shelby, Craig, Alexander. (9-8)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Feinstein,¹ Byrd, Leahy, Dorgan, Mikulski, Kohl, Johnson, Reed, Nelson, Allard,² Craig, Stevens, Cochran, Domenici, Bennett, Gregg, Alexander. (9-8)

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Harkin,¹ Inouye, Kohl, Murray, Landrieu, Durbin, Reed, Lautenberg, Specter,² Cochran, Gregg, Craig, Hutchison, Stevens, Shelby. (8-7)

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Senators Landrieu,¹ Durbin, Nelson, Alexander,² Allard. (3-2)

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Johnson,¹ Inouye, Landrieu, Byrd, Murray, Reed, Nelson, Hutchison,² Craig, Brownback, Allard, McConnell, Bennett. (7-6)

STATE, FOREIGN OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Senators Leahy,¹ Inouye, Harkin, Mikulski, Durbin, Johnson, Landrieu, Reed, Gregg,² McConnell, Specter, Bennett, Bond, Brownback, Alexander. (8-7)

TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Murray,¹ Byrd, Mikulski, Kohl, Durbin, Dorgan, Leahy, Harkin, Feinstein, Johnson, Lautenberg, Bond,² Shelby, Specter, Bennett, Hutchison, Brownback, Stevens, Domenici, Alexander, Allard. (11-10)

¹ Subcommittee chairman.

² Ranking minority member.

SRI LANKA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, it has been a little over a year since I last spoke in this Chamber about the fragile peace process in Sri Lanka. I want to take a moment to discuss the situation today because in the past year we have seen human rights in that small island nation steadily deteriorate. I also want to correct some confusion that may have occurred as a result of statements reported in the press regarding the Senate's action in connection with the fiscal year 2008 State, Foreign Operations appropriations bill. That bill passed the Senate by a vote of 81 to 12 on September 6, 2007, and we are waiting to begin conference discussions with the House of Representatives.

Over the years, I have been a strong supporter of U.S.-Sri Lankan relations. A good friend, Ambassador James Spain, served there, and the American people acted quickly to provide emergency assistance for Sri Lanka after the December 2004 tsunami devastated Sri Lanka's east, north, and southern coasts, claiming tens of thousands of lives. Beyond that, we have long supported the Sri Lankan Government's efforts to respond to acts of terrorism by the LTTE, which has been designated by the Department of State and the European Union as a foreign terrorist organization because of its attacks against civilians, assassinations of political leaders, forced recruitment of children, and other crimes.

We deplore these tactics. However, we are also aware that the LTTE has, at times, shown a willingness to participate in serious negotiations, as well as to respond to human rights concerns. These overtures should be pursued. We also recognize that the LTTE

should not be equated with the Tamil community. There are many ethnic Tamils living in and outside of Sri Lanka who do not condone acts of violence and terrorism against civilians. Many have been victims of the LTTE themselves.

At the same time, our aid to the Sri Lankan Government is not a blank check. We have been increasingly concerned with reports of abuses by Sri Lankan Government forces—not from the LTTE or their supporters as some have inaccurately claimed but from the United Nations, the Department of State, and international human rights organizations. These reports are not “disinformation” or “misinformation” as some Sri Lankan officials have alleged. Rather, they contain specific, documented, consistent information indicating a steady increase in serious human rights violations by both Sri Lankan Government forces and the LTTE since the collapse of the ceasefire. While the first acts of aggression were attributed to the LTTE, these reports also implicate Government forces in attacks on civilians, extrajudicial executions, torture, and forced disappearances. There is also evidence that Sri Lankan Government forces have stood by while allied paramilitary organizations have carried out abuses, including forcibly recruiting child soldiers. With few exceptions, the Sri Lankan Government has yet to bring the perpetrators, including members of Government security forces, to justice.

It is important to note that the Sri Lankan Government's respect for human rights and the rule of law has deteriorated even outside conflict-affected areas. The Millennium Challenge Corporation suspended more than \$11 million intended for Sri Lanka because of the deteriorating security situation and the Government's worsening performance on human rights. Freedom House, whose assessments of political rights and civil liberties are factored into the Millennium Challenge Corporation's analysis, stated “The serious human rights abuses and excessive restrictions on freedom of speech and association by the government of Sri Lanka merit the country's removal from a list of eligible recipients for U.S. Millennium Challenge Account assistance.” We want to see a Millennium Challenge compact for Sri Lanka, but these problems must first be recognized and effectively addressed.

An international human rights field presence, under the auspices of the United Nations, could do much to improve the situation. Given the gravity and scale of the violations witnessed in Sri Lanka, and particularly the inability of the Sri Lankan Government to monitor the abuses taking place in areas held by the LTTE, such a presence would help protect lives, document abuses by all sides, and support the Government and civil society in protecting the civilian population. The

Department of State has publicly endorsed such a role for the United Nations.

It is due to this information, from reputable sources, that the Senate attached three conditions to our assistance to the Sri Lankan military in the fiscal year 2008 State, Foreign Operations appropriations bill. Anyone who reviews those conditions should agree that they are reasonable and appropriate. They would require the Sri Lankan Government to be bringing to justice members of the military who have been credibly alleged to have committed gross violations of human rights; end unreasonable restrictions on access in the country by humanitarian organizations and journalists; and agree to the establishment of a field presence of the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights in Sri Lanka.

It is regrettable that rather than explain why the Sri Lankan Government should not meet such reasonable standards when it is seeking millions of dollars in U.S. taxpayer assistance, some Sri Lankan officials have attacked our motives and falsely attributed our actions to LTTE propaganda. Others have insisted that they are meeting these standards already, when the facts clearly indicate that far more needs to be done.

We want Sri Lanka to succeed in stopping terrorism, and we recognize that military force can be necessary against terrorist tactics. But there is no military solution to the Sri Lankan conflict, which has dragged on for more than two decades. Thousands of innocent people—Sinhalese, Tamils, and Muslims—have been killed. More than 1,000 are reported to have “disappeared” in just the past 12 to 18 months, and many more before that. Hundreds of thousands of civilians have been displaced by the fighting. Families on both sides of the conflict have suffered terribly, and the country remains divided and no closer to peace.

Every time a Sri Lankan soldier violates international humanitarian law it alienates the very people in the Tamil community whose support the Government needs to combat terrorism. Our country has experienced a similar problem in Iraq, where killings of civilians have hurt our mission, tarnished our image and weakened the support of our allies.

I would hope that the Sri Lankan Government would see our action for what it is. We want to help, but not unconditionally. I believe the United States could and should play a more active role, with other key partners, in helping to facilitate negotiations on a political settlement. But rhetoric about human rights and the appointment of ineffectual commissions of inquiry that have no credibility, only goes so far. The situation remains grave and those responsible for abuses are rarely punished, making a peace agreement more difficult to achieve. A field presence of the Office of the High

Commissioner for Human Rights, with sufficient mandate and capability to conduct full and unfettered monitoring throughout the country, communicate its findings to all sides of the conflict and the public, and provide advice and technical assistance, is overdue. Also urgently needed is greater access for humanitarian organizations to assist civilians caught in the crossfire and for journalists to report the facts.

The Sri Lankan people have suffered the consequences of ethnic discrimination, violence, and injustice for the better part of their country's history. We cannot solve Sri Lanka's conflict; only the Sri Lankan people can. But we can and want to continue helping if the Government demonstrates that it takes our concerns seriously.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JACK SPALDING SCHRODER, JR.

• Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, today I honor in the RECORD of the Senate Jack Spalding Schroder, Jr. of Atlanta, who is a great Georgian and a great American. I honor Jack upon his retirement from Alston & Bird and for his work on behalf of the Georgia Hospital Association.

For nearly 32 years, Jack has served as lead legal counsel for the Georgia Hospital Association as an employee of Alston & Bird and its predecessor. He has served alongside three different association presidents, beginning with Seldon Brown in 1975, and he has authored numerous articles on hospitals and healthcare. He helped pave the way in the 1980s for public, not-for-profit hospitals to transfer leadership to not-for-profit governing boards that reduced political pressures and enhanced fundraising abilities. His efforts culminated in a major judicial victory at the Georgia Supreme Court.

Jack helped craft Georgia's first-ever Certificate of Need law, a law designed to control rising health care costs and preserve access to hospital services for all Georgians. In the past 10 years, while political pressures have forced other states to abandon Certificate of Need, Jack has been instrumental in helping Georgia preserve its successful Certificate of Need program.

Jack also helped shape important pieces of indigent care-related legislation that were designed to preserve access to care for hundreds of thousands of indigent patients while strengthening Georgia's local, community hospitals.

In addition to his role as lead legal counsel for the Georgia Hospital Association, Jack has served as president of the Georgia Academy of Health Care Attorneys as well as on the boards of a number of prominent health care law groups such as the Atlanta Bar Association and the American Health Lawyers Association.

Jack has served as a tireless advocate for enhancing Georgia hospitals'

ability to provide quality, cost-effective health care services to every Georgia resident. He and his wife Karen have earned the many happy years of retirement ahead of them.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure and it is a privilege to recognize on the floor of the U.S. Senate the contributions of Jack Schroder to the health care industry, to the Georgia Hospital Association and to the State of Georgia.●

RECOGNITION OF MOUNT MORIAH BAPTIST CHURCH

• Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to a historic church celebrating its 120th anniversary on November 10 to 11, 2007. Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Omaha, NE, was founded in 1887 and continues to thrive as it serves a vast congregation within the minority community living in Nebraska's largest city.

This anniversary is a significant achievement, especially for an institution born during a time of racial bigotry and hatred in America. The church's founding required the strength, courage, and faith of early African-American leaders, who recognized the importance of their mission to create a church which has now succeeded in delivering the Word of God to generations in three different centuries.

Mount Moriah Baptist Church has an interesting history. It was first organized in 1867, but due to the lack of a Black presence, membership declined. Then in 1887, the Reverend Amos Johnson organized a new baptist church with just seven members. A name was not immediately selected for the newly organized body. Finally, in 1888, the parishioners settled on Mount Pisgah Baptist Church. However, in 1897, the Enterprise newspaper reported the resignation of the Reverend R. January, who asked some of the church members to form a new congregation. The remaining members reorganized their congregation as the Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church.

Mount Moriah, whose name means “prepared for God,” has had to survive numerous challenges, including several changes in location and a fire which caused significant damage during the mid-1920s. In 1956, during the administration of Reverend St. Clair, who served for 20 years, the church underwent extensive renovations.

Today, 12 decades after it was formed, Mount Moriah Baptist Church remains a focal point in Omaha, NE, just as its namesake, Mount Moriah in Jerusalem, has always been a focal point in biblical history.

I wish to commend Rev. Ralph B. Lassiter, Sr., and the congregation of Mount Moriah Baptist Church of Omaha, NE, for continuing the long and glorious tradition of teaching the Bible and its meaning and training the faithful how to live its message. Your service is truly admirable.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2293. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the individual alternative minimum tax, and for other purposes.

S. 2294. A bill to strengthen immigration enforcement and border security and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 950. A bill to develop and maintain an integrated system of coastal and ocean observations for the Nation's coasts, oceans, and Great Lakes, to improve warnings of tsunami, hurricanes, El Niño events, and other natural hazards, to enhance homeland security, to support maritime operations, to improve management of coastal and marine resources, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-217).

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with amendments:

S. 1582. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-218).

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment:

S. 1769. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to facilitate number portability in order to increase consumer choice of voice service provider (Rept. No. 110-219).

By Mr. HARKIN, from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, without amendment:

S. 2302. An original bill to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 110-220).

By Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, without amendment and with a preamble:

H. Con. Res. 225. A concurrent resolution honoring the 50th anniversary of the dawn of the Space Age, and the ensuing 50 years of productive and peaceful space activities.

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. MENENDEZ:

S. 2301. A bill for the relief of Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 2302. An original bill to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 2303. A bill to amend section 435(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding the definition of economic hardship; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. AKAKA):

S. Res. 365. A resolution encouraging all employers to target veterans for recruitment and to provide preference in hiring to qualified veterans; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 311

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 311, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes.

S. 518

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 518, a bill to amend the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002 to require the Statistics Commissioner to collect information from coeducational secondary schools on such schools' athletic programs.

S. 597

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 597, a bill to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years.

S. 1200

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1200, a bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend the Act.

S. 1354

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1354, a bill to amend the definition of a law enforcement officer under subchapter III of chapter 83 and chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code, respectively, to ensure the inclusion of certain positions.

S. 1373

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1373, a bill to provide grants and loan guarantees for the development and construction of science parks to promote the clustering of innovation through high technology activities.

S. 1451

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1451, a bill to encourage the development of coordinated quality reforms to improve health care delivery and reduce the cost of care in the health care system.

S. 1730

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1730, a bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act, to reward States for engaging individuals with disabilities in work activities, and for other purposes.

S. 1914

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1914, a bill to require a comprehensive nuclear posture review, and for other purposes.

S. 2045

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2045, a bill to reform the Consumer Product Safety Commission to provide greater protection for children's products, to improve the screening of noncompliant consumer products, to improve the effectiveness of consumer product recall programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2107

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2107, a bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 570 Broadway in Bayonne, New Jersey, as the "Dennis P. Collins Post Office Building".

S. 2181

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2181, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect Medicare beneficiaries' access to home health services under the Medicare program.

S. 2186

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2186, a bill to permit individuals who are employees of a grantee that is receiving funds under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act to enroll in health insurance coverage provided under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program.

S. 2246

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2246, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend eligibility for Federal TRIO programs to members of the reserve components serving on active duty in support of contingency operations.

S. 2278

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2278, a bill to improve the prevention, detection, and treatment of community and healthcare-associated infections (CHAI), with a focus on antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 365—ENCOURAGING ALL EMPLOYERS TO TARGET VETERANS FOR RECRUITMENT AND TO PROVIDE PREFERENCE IN HIRING TO QUALIFIED VETERANS

Mr. SMITH (for himself and Mr. AKAKA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 365

Whereas the people of the United States have sincere appreciation and respect for the individuals who serve in the Armed Forces;

Whereas in order to recognize their sacrifices, including time out from their civil-

ian careers while serving in the Armed Forces, Congress enacted the Veterans' Preference Act of 1944 to restore veterans to a more favorable competitive position for Federal Government employment;

Whereas, although veterans acquire skills and qualities during their military service that make them ideal candidates for employment, some veterans need assistance in readjusting to civilian life, evidenced by the fact that the unemployment rate of young veterans is more than twice the national rate;

Whereas it is acknowledged that the dignity, pride, and satisfaction of a civilian job are essential to the smooth and full reintegration into civilian life of those who have answered our Nation's call to arms; and

Whereas all citizens and all employers benefit from the service of members of the Armed Forces and thus bear some responsibility to assist in the reintegration of former

servicemembers into civilian life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) urges all employers, private sector as well as State, county, and local government, to target veterans for recruitment and to afford qualified veterans hiring preference similar to the benefits provided by chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, to preference eligibles, as defined in section 2108 of such title; and

(2) encourages the President to issue a proclamation in connection with Veterans Day, November 11, 2007, calling upon all employers to make a special effort to target veterans for recruitment and to provide preference in hiring for qualified veterans.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Elizabeth Croker:									
Canada	Dollar		611.39						611.39
Total			611.39						611.39

TOM HARKIN,
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Oct. 11, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Paul Grove:									
Jordan	Dinar		867.00						867.00
Egypt	Pound		399.00						399.00
Turkey	Lira		508.00						508.00
United States	Dollar				7,984.68				7,984.68
Michele Gordon:									
Jordan	Dinar		867.00						867.00
Egypt	Pound		399.00						399.00
Turkey	Lira		508.00						508.00
United States	Dollar				7,984.68				7,984.68
Katherine Eltrich:									
Jordan	Dinar		867.00						867.00
Egypt	Pound		399.00						399.00
Turkey	Lira		508.00						508.00
United States	Dollar				7,984.68				7,984.68
Arthur E. Cameron, Jr.:									
Egypt	Pound		1,114.00						1,114.00
Israel	Shekel		1,596.00						1,596.00
United States	Dollar				8,614.18				8,614.18
Howard Sutton:									
Egypt	Pound		1,114.00						1,114.00
Israel	Shekel		1,596.00						1,596.00
United States	Dollar				8,614.18				8,614.18
Senator Thad Cochran:									
Malaysia	Ringgit		345.00						345.00
Vietnam	Dong		230.00						230.00
Thailand	Baht		244.00						244.00
Hong Kong	Dollar		188.00						188.00
Kay Webber:									
Malaysia	Ringgit		345.00						345.00
Vietnam	Dong		230.00						230.00
Thailand	Baht		244.00						244.00
Hong Kong	Dollar		188.00						188.00
Stewart Holmes:									
Malaysia	Ringgit		345.00						345.00
Vietnam	Dong		230.00						230.00
Thailand	Baht		244.00						244.00
Hong Kong	Dollar		188.00						188.00
Johathan Kamarck:									
Sweden	Krona		1,395.00						1,395.00
The Netherlands	Euro		1,282.68						1,282.68
Turkey	Lira		1,288.00						1,288.00
United States	Dollar				7,226.15				7,226.15
Ellen Stein Beares:									
Sweden	Krona		1,395.00						1,395.00
The Netherlands	Euro		1,282.68						1,282.68

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Turkey	Lira		1,288.00						1,288.00
United States	Dollar				7,676.29				7,676.29
Matthew Craig McCardle:									
Sweden	Krona		1,395.00						1,395.00
The Netherlands	Euro		1,282.68						1,282.68
Turkey	Lira		1,288.00						1,288.00
United States	Dollar				7,283.08				7,283.08
Nancy J. Olkewicz:									
United Kingdom	Pound		1,540.00						1,540.00
United States	Dollar				7,103.67				7,103.67
Carolyn E. Apostolou:									
United Kingdom	Pound		1,585.69						1,585.69
United Kingdom	Pound					113.08			113.08
United States	Dollar				7,103.67				7,103.67
Gary D. Reese:									
Pakistan	Dollar		1,619.00						1,619.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		300.00						300.00
United States	Dollar				9,253.46				9,253.46
Senator Richard J. Durbin:									
Qatar	Dollar		287.34						287.34
Afghanistan	Dollar		10.00						10.00
Pakistan	Rupee		278.37						278.37
Kuwait	Dollar		26.00						26.00
Jordan	Dollar		225.44						225.44
United States	Dollar				8,531.01				8,531.01
Paul Farnan:									
Qatar	Dollar		287.34						287.34
Afghanistan	Dollar		12.00						12.00
Pakistan	Rupee		211.00						211.00
Kuwait	Dollar		35.00						35.00
Jordan	Dollar		214.00						214.00
United States	Dollar				8,375.01				8,375.01
Chris Homan:									
Qatar	Dollar		285.38			51.62			337.00
Afghanistan	Dollar		7.00						7.00
Pakistan	Rupee		210.47			13.12			223.59
Kuwait	Dollar		26.00			16.98			42.98
Jordan	Dollar		264.22			24.65			288.87
United States	Dollar				8,375.01				8,375.01
Senator Robert C. Byrd:									
Panama	Dollar		389.50						389.50
James Tuite:									
Panama	Dollar		389.50						389.50
James Allen:									
Panama	Dollar		389.50						389.50
* Delegation Expenses:									
Panama	Dollar					1,211.91			1,211.91
Total			34,252.45		112,109.75	1,431.36			147,793.56

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of Pub. L. 95-384, and expenses paid pursuant to S. Res. 179, agreed to May 25, 1977.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Oct. 17, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lindsey O. Graham:									
Kuwait	Dollar		44.77						44.77
France	Dollar		1,164.45			44.71			1,209.16
Michael J. Kуйken:									
United States	Dollar				13,326.15				13,326.15
Republic of the Congo	Dollar		747.00						747.00
Uganda	Shilling		803.00						803.00
Senator James M. Inhofe:									
Jordan	Dinar		337.57						337.57
Anthony Lazarski:									
Germany	Euro		395.59						395.59
Jordan	Dinar		235.88						235.88
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman:									
China	Dollar		1,017.00			2,000.00			3,017.00
United States	Dollar				8,050.00				8,050.00
India	Dollar		1,106.00						1,106.00
Vance Serchuk:									
China	Dollar		1,017.00						1,017.00
United States	Dollar				8,050.00				8,050.00
India	Dollar		1,106.00						1,106.00
Frederick M. Downey:									
China	Dollar		917.00						917.00
United States	Dollar				8,050.00				8,050.00
India	Dollar		982.00						982.00
Michael J. Kуйken:									
Mali	Franc		342.00						342.00
Chad	Franc		429.00						429.00
Germany	Euro		279.00						279.00
United States	Dollar				13,961.00				13,961.00
Senator Carl Levin:									
Kuwait	Dollar		297.86						297.86
Jordan	Dinar		417.00						417.00
Israel	Shekel		308.00			5.19			313.19
United States	Dollar				7,399.27				7,399.27
Senator John McCain:									
Kuwait	Dollar		155.00						155.00
France	Dollar		206.00						206.00
Richard Fontaine:									
Kuwait	Dollar		155.00						155.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
France	Dollar		206.00						206.00
Dana W. White:									
Mal	Franc		326.00						326.00
Chad	Franc		364.00						364.00
Germany	Euro		308.00						308.00
United States	Dollar				13,961.00				13,961.00
Senator John Warner:									
Kuwait	Dinar		81.68						81.68
Jordan	Dinar		512.94						512.94
United States	Dollar				10,755.59				10,755.59
Elizabeth King:									
United States	Dollar				6,979.00				6,979.00
Kuwait	Dollar					45.00			45.00
Senator Jack Reed:									
United States	Dollar				6,979.00				6,979.00
Kuwait	Dollar					35.00			35.00
Senator John Thune:									
Malaysia	Ringgit		345.00						345.00
Vietnam	Dong		230.00						230.00
Thailand	Baht		244.00						244.00
Hong Kong	Dollar		188.00						188.00
Evelyn N. Farkas:									
United States	Dollar				8,697.00				8,697.00
Thailand	Dollar		254.00						254.00
Pakistan	Dollar		560.00						560.00
Dana W. White:									
United States	Dollar				8,697.00				8,697.00
Thailand	Dollar		257.00						257.00
Pakistan	Dollar		576.00						576.00
Senator E. Benjamin Nelson:									
Kuwait	Dollar		155.00						155.00
Matt Rimkunas:									
United Arab Emirates	Dollar		149.32						149.32
Afghanistan	Dollar		28.59			100.00			128.59
United States	Dollar				7,979.12				7,979.12
Daniel J. Cox, Jr.:									
Jordan	Dinar		433.02				30.00		463.02
Israel	Shekel		292.17						292.17
United States	Dollar				6,912.00				6,912.00
Kuwait	Dollar		297.86						297.86
Richard D. DeBebes:									
Kuwait	Dollar		298.00						298.00
Jordan	Dinar		433.00						433.00
Israel	Shekel		313.00						313.00
United States	Dollar				6,912.00	25.00			6,937.00
Total			19,314.70		136,708.13	2,284.90			158,307.73

CARL LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Oct. 12, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Richard Shelby:									
United States	Dollar				12,091.00				12,091.00
United Kingdom	Pound		462.00						462.00
Belgium	Euro		420.00						420.00
Germany	Euro		840.00						840.00
Poland	Zloty		636.00						636.00
Italy	Euro		478.00						478.00
Jordan	Dinar		578.00						578.00
William D. Duhnke, III:									
United States	Dollar				12,091.00				12,091.00
United Kingdom	Pound		375.00						375.00
Belguin	Euro		330.00						330.00
Germany	Euro		668.00						668.00
Poland	Zloty		549.00						549.00
Italy	Euro		391.00						391.00
Jordan	Dinar		491.00						491.00
Total			6,218.00		24,182.00				30,400.00

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD,
Chairman, Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs, Oct. 10, 2007

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95—384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Daniel Brandt III:									
United States	Dollar				8,515.73				8,515.73
Vietnam	Dong		868.00						868.00
Cambodia	Riel		212.00						212.00
Laos	Kip		597.00		110.00				707.00
Taiwan	Dollar		1,014.00						1,014.00
Scott B. Gudes:									
United States	Dollar				8,326.70				8,326.70
Vietnam	Dong		868.00						868.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Cambodia	Riel		212.00						212.00
Laos	Kip		597.00		110.00				707.00
Taiwan	Dollar		1,014.00						1,014.00
Total			5,382.00		17,062.43				22,444.43

KENT CONRAD,
Chairman, Senate Budget Committee, Sept. 30, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator John Ensign:									
India	Rupee		482.40						482.40
United States	Dollar				6,476.57				6,476.57
David Quinalty:									
India	Rupee		157.70						157.70
United States	Dollar				6,544.04				6,544.04
Total			640.10		13,020.61				13,660.71

DANIEL K. INOUIE,
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation,
Oct. 1, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Frank Macchiarola:									
United States	Dollar				6,916.50				6,916.50
China	Yen		1,695.00						1,695.00
Total			1,695.00		6,916.50				8,611.50

JEFF BINGAMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Sept. 10, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Caroline McLean:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
Jessica Maher:									
Greenland	Krone		180.00						180.00
Richard Alley:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
Ashley Horning:									
Greenland	Krone		140.00						140.00
Senator Bill Nelson:									
Greenland	Krone		257.00						257.00
Senator Johnny Isakson:									
Greenland	Krone		256.00						256.00
Senator Bernard Sanders:									
Greenland	Krone		257.00						257.00
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse:									
Greenland	Krone		256.16						256.16
Senator Barbara Mikulski:									
Greenland	Krone		140.44						140.44
Senator Frank Lautenberg:									
Greenland	Krone		307.00						307.00
Senator Benjamin Cardin:									
Greenland	Krone		257.30						257.30
Senator Amy Klobuchar:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
Senator Bob Corker:									
Greenland	Krone		120.44						120.44
Erik Olson:									
Greenland	Krone		188.50						188.50
Michael Goo:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
Michael Quiello:									
Greenland	Krone		160.44						160.44
Marc Morano:									
Greenland	Krone		260.00						260.00
Arvin Ganeson:									
Greenland	Krone		160.44						160.44
Mark Wilson:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
John Eisold:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Alex Herrgott:									
United States	Dollar				7,676.29				7,676.29
Sweden	Krona		1,395.00						1,395.00
Netherlands	Euro		1,282.68						1,282.68
Turkey	Lira		1,288.00						1,288.00
James O'Keefe:									
United States	Dollar				7,676.29				7,676.29
Sweden	Krona		1,395.00						1,395.00
Netherlands	Euro		1,282.68						1,282.68
Turkey	Lira		1,288.00						1,288.00
Paul Ordal:									
Greenland	Krone		140.44						140.44
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		779.00						779.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50
Bettina Poirier:									
Greenland	Krone		350.00						350.00
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		905.00						905.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50
Peter Rafle:									
Greenland	Krone		225.24						225.24
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		603.00						603.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50
Senator Barbara Boxer:									
Greenland	Krone		257.30						257.30
United States	Dollar				6,231.02				6,231.02
United Kingdom	Pound		524.00						524.00
France	Euro		354.00		766.50		1,850.00		2,970.50
Iceland	Krona		234.00		194.50		338.00		766.50
Total			19,109.06		44,120.66		8,752.00		71,981.72

BARBARA BOXER,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, Oct. 23, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Max Baucus:									
Kuwait	Dollar		18.60						18.60
Senator Blanche Lincoln:									
Kuwait	Dollar		128.05						128.05
Andrew Person:									
Kuwait	Dollar		56.53						56.53
Anthony McClain:									
Kuwait	Dollar		90.00						90.00
Christopher Campbell:									
Colombia	Peso		1,087.29		665.00				1,752.29
United States	Dollar				1,975.38				1,975.38
Amber Cottle:									
Colombia	Peso		1,328.08		476.00				1,804.08
United States	Dollar				2,310.00				2,310.00
Robert Hollifield:									
Colombia	Peso		1,174.38		476.00				1,650.38
United States	Dollar				2,111.34				2,111.34
Staci Lancaster:									
Colombia	Peso		1,208.78		476.00				1,684.78
United States	Dollar				2,145.00				2,145.00
Thomas Mahr:									
Colombia	Peso		667.39		194.00				861.39
United States	Dollar				1,554.90				1,554.90
Demetrios Marantis:									
Colombia	Peso		1,780.55		665.00				2,445.55
United States	Dollar				1,967.70				1,967.70
King Mueller:									
Colombia	Peso		1,290.00		476.00				1,766.00
United States	Dollar				2,120.70				2,120.70
Sam Mitchell:									
Colombia	Peso		1,162.82		476.00				1,638.82
United States	Dollar				2,303.00				2,303.00
Stephen Schaefer:									
Colombia	Peso		1,131.72		476.00				1,607.72
United States	Dollar				2,069.00				2,069.00
Chelsea Thomas:									
Colombia	Peso		1,328.63		476.00				1,804.63
United States	Dollar				2,404.00				2,404.00
Total			12,452.82		25,817.02				38,269.84

MAX BAUCUS,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Oct. 25, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr.:									
Kuwait	Dollar		68.00						68.00
Germany	Dollar		60.00						60.00
United States	Dollar				9,442.51				9,442.51
Senator Robert P. Casey Jr.:									
Kuwait	Dollar		86.00						86.00
Jordan	Dollar		289.00						289.00
United States	Dollar				9,446.43				9,446.43
Senator Norm Coleman:									
Kuwait	Dollar		150.00				65.00		215.00
United States	Dollar				9,472.51				9,472.51
Senator Russ Feingold:									
Sao Tome & Principe	Dollar		287.00						287.00
Congo	Dollar		560.00						560.00
Uganda	Shilling		1,324.00				96.00		1,420.00
United Kingdom	Pound		394.87						394.87
United States	Dollar				9,853.54				9,853.54
Senator Richard Lugar:									
Russia	Ruble		706.00						706.00
Ukraine	Dollar		125.00						125.00
United Kingdom	Pound		231.00						231.00
United States	Dollar				6,666.11				6,666.11
Jeffrey Baron:									
Korea	Won		1,727.00						1,727.00
China	Yuan		660.00						660.00
United States	Dollar				7,563.84				7,563.84
Jeffrey Baron:									
China	Yuan		693.00		45.00				738.00
North Korea	Dollar		1,284.00		390.00				1,674.00
United States	Dollar				6,916.56				6,916.56
Antony Blinken:									
Kuwait	Dollar		54.00						54.00
Germany	Dollar		40.00						40.00
United States	Dollar				9,379.51				9,379.51
Jay Branegan:									
Honduras	Lempira		582.00						582.00
United States	Dollar				1,378.70				1,378.70
Shellie Bressler:									
Botswana	Pula		458.00						458.00
South Africa	Rand		1,615.00		278.00				1,893.00
United States	Dollar				9,332.36				9,332.36
Shellie Bressler:									
Liberia	Dollar		1,215.00						1,215.00
Ghana	Dollar		787.00						787.00
Ethiopia	Dollar		1,604.00						1,604.00
United States	Dollar				13,365.88				13,365.88
Perry Cammack:									
Egypt	Pound		532.00						532.00
Morocco	Dirham		1,176.00						1,176.00
United States	Dollar				8,199.73				8,199.73
Brooke Daley:									
Rwanda	Franc		1,147.00						1,147.00
Tanzania	Shilling		240.00						240.00
United States	Dollar				10,755.58				10,755.58
Isaac Edwards:									
China	Yuan		1,962.00		447.86		390.00		2,799.86
United States	Dollar				6,916.57				6,916.57
Steven Feldstein:									
Kenya	Shilling		2,226.00						2,226.00
Mozambique	Metical		1,498.00						1,498.00
Ethiopia	Birr		1,500.00						1,500.00
United States	Dollar				10,739.44				10,739.44
Andrew Fisher:									
Russia	Ruble		706.00						706.00
Ukraine	Hyrnia		125.00						125.00
United Kingdom	Pound		231.00						231.00
United States	Dollar				6,666.11				6,666.11
Paul Foldi:									
Kenya	Dollar		1,000.00						1,000.00
Italy	Dollar		2,030.00						2,030.00
United States	Dollar				12,197.82				12,197.82
Paul Foldi:									
Liberia	Dollar		1,285.00						1,285.00
Ghana	Dollar		710.00						710.00
Ethiopia	Dollar		1,620.00						1,620.00
United States	Dollar				13,385.88				13,385.88
Jofi Joseph:									
Kuwait	Dollar		86.00						86.00
Jordan	Dollar		289.00						289.00
United States	Dollar				9,690.43				9,690.43
Jessica Lewis:									
Nicaragua	Cordoba		245.00						245.00
El Salvador	Dollar		356.00						356.00
Peru	Sol		259.00						259.00
Columbia	Peso		1,093.40						1,093.40
United States	Dollar				4,943.00				4,943.00
Keith Luse:									
Indonesia	Rupiah		1,156.51		785.00		185.02		2,126.53
Singapore	Dollar		335.94						335.94
Philippines	Peso		871.57						871.57
China	Yuan		243.50		514.26				757.76
Mongolia	Tugrik		962.41						962.41
Japan	Yen						2.40		2.40
Korea	Won						9.60		9.60
United States	Dollar				3,694.47				3,694.47
Sarah Margon:									
Sao Tome & Principe	Dollar		112.00						112.00
Congo	Dollar		460.00						460.00
Uganda	Shilling		1,204.00				96.00		1,300.00
United Kingdom	Pound		394.87						394.87
United States	Dollar				8,820.54				8,820.54
Brian McKeon:									
Botswana	Pula		362.86						362.86
South Africa	Rand		1,251.08		278.44				1,529.52
United States	Dollar				9,332.36				9,332.36

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Carl Meacham:									
Bolivia	Dollar		954.00						954.00
United States	Dollar				2,738.70				2,738.70
Thomas Moore:									
Russia	Ruble		706.00						706.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		125.00						125.00
United Kingdom	Pound		231.00						231.00
United States	Dollar				6,645.97				6,645.97
Kenneth Myers, Jr.:									
Russia	Ruble		706.00						706.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		125.00						125.00
United Kingdom	Pound		231.00						231.00
United States	Dollar				6,666.11				6,666.11
Kenneth Myers, III:									
Russia	Ruble		896.00						896.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		125.00						125.00
United Kingdom	Pound		231.00						231.00
United States	Dollar				6,666.11				6,666.11
Kenneth Myers, III:									
Russia	Ruble		1,200.00						1,200.00
United States	Dollar				5,864.50				5,864.50
Michael Phelan:									
Zambia	Kwacha		1,629.40		187.00				1,816.40
Zimbabwe	Dollar		873.51		460.97				1,334.48
Mozambique	Metical		1,448.38		470.16				1,918.54
United States	Dollar				10,026.78				10,026.78
Nilmini Rubin:									
Rwanda	Franc		1,384.14		90.00				1,474.14
Tanzania	Shilling		1,852.22		60.00				1,912.22
United States	Dollar				10,735.58				10,735.58
Jennifer Simon:									
Kenya	Shilling		1,372.00						1,372.00
Italy	Euro		2,152.00						2,152.00
United States	Dollar				10,295.00				10,295.00
Shannon Smith:									
Cote d'Ivoire	CFA		994.00						994.00
Rwanda	Dollar		1,027.00						1,027.00
Ethiopia	Dollar		1,240.00		200.00				1,440.00
Namibia	Dollar		455.00						455.00
United States	Dollar				13,254.00				13,254.00
Shannon Smith:									
Congo	Dollar		1,237.00						1,237.00
Uganda	Shilling		1,265.00						1,265.00
United States	Dollar				13,326.00				13,326.00
Chris Socha:									
United Arab Emirates	Dirham		773.39		240.55				1,013.94
Afghanistan	Dollar		44.30		210.00		10.00		264.30
Qatar	Riyal		573.96		41.22		19.23		634.41
Jordan	Dinar		344.81		28.24				373.05
United States	Dollar				9,764.23		201.69		9,965.92
Mark String:									
Zambia	Dollar		1,421.25		187.00				1,608.25
Zimbabwe	Dollar		847.51		460.97				1,308.48
Mozambique	Dollar		1,203.00		470.16				1,673.16
United States	Dollar				10,026.78				10,026.78
Jordan Talge:									
Kuwait	Dollar		282.00						282.00
United States	Dollar				9,013.12				9,013.12
Puneet Talwar:									
Lebanon	Dollar		256.00						256.00
Israel	Dollar		742.00						742.00
United States	Dollar				7,899.15				7,899.15
Puneet Talwar:									
Kuwait	Dollar		50.00						50.00
Germany	Dollar		94.00						94.00
United States	Dollar				9,379.51				9,379.51
Tomicah Tillemann:									
Russia	Ruble		1,362.00						1,362.00
Belgium	Dollar		978.00						978.00
Estonia	Dollar		1,098.00						1,098.00
United States	Dollar				8,393.80				8,393.80
Connie Vilette:									
Liberia	Dollar		1,221.00						1,221.00
Ghana	Dollar		791.00						791.00
Ethiopia	Dollar		1,636.00						1,636.00
United States	Dollar				13,365.88				13,365.88
Total			78,848.88		358,065.93		1,074.94		437,989.75

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Oct. 15, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jodi Lieberman:									
United States	Dollar				7,573.28				7,573.28
Russia	Rouble		1,488.00						1,488.00
Ukraine	Hryvnia		1,300.00						1,300.00
Lithuania	Litai		800.00						800.00
Austria	Euro		1,000.00						1,000.00
Kristin Sharp:									
United States	Dollar				6,364.99				6,364.99
Ukraine	Hryvnia		350.00						350.00
Lithuania	Litai		864.00						864.00
Austria	Euro		678.00						678.00
Lauren Henry:									
United States	Dollar				6,364.99				6,364.99

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Ukraine	Hryvna		400.00						400.00
Lithuania	Litai		864.00						864.00
Austria	Euro		657.00						657.00
Total			8,401.00		20,303.26				28,704.26

JOSEPH L. LIEBERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
Oct. 4, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Arlen Specter:									
United Kingdom	Pound		68.07						68.07
Finland	Euro		28.38						28.38
Russia	Ruble		466.61						466.61
Turkey	Lira		185.02						185.02
Poland	Zloty		110.87						110.87
France	Euro		251.77						251.77
United States	Dollar				8,367.21				8,367.21
John Myers:									
United Kingdom	Pound		173.00						173.00
Finland	Euro		275.00						275.00
Russia	Ruble		680.00						680.00
Turkey	Lira		321.00						321.00
Poland	Zloty		286.00						286.00
France	Euro		343.00						343.00
United States	Dollar				8,394.97				8,394.97
Bradley Hayes:									
Egypt	Pound		1,114.00						1,114.00
Israel	Shehel		1,596.00						1,596.00
United States	Dollar				8,614.18				8,614.18
* Delegation Expenses:									
Turkey	Lira					6,802.00			6,802.00
Poland	Zloty					4,760.96			4,760.96
Russia	Ruble					7,308.98			7,308.98
Finland	Euro					1,770.00			1,770.00
France	Euro					15,474.62			15,474.62
Total			5,898.72		25,376.36	36,116.56			67,391.64

* Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State and the Department of Defense under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95-384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary, Oct. 30, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Gregory Willis:									
United States	Dollar				6,786.54				6,786.54
China	Yuan		1,580.00		575.00	300.00			2,455.00
Total			1,580.00		7,361.54	300.00			9,241.54

JOHN F. KERRY,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship,
Oct. 15, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Aaron Sheldon:									
South Korea	Won		1,705.00						1,705.00
Total			1,705.00						1,705.00

DANIEL K. AKAKA,
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Sept. 17, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 20, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Jennifer Wagner	Dollar		3,572.00		11,102.40				3,572.00
Jacqueline Russell	Dollar		3,292.00		11,102.40				11,102.40
James Smythers	Dollar		1,392.00		9,229.40				1,392.00
Todd Rosenblum	Dollar		1,073.59		8,997.79				9,229.40
Andrew Kerr	Dollar		2,114.04		8,588.96				1,073.59
Eric Chapman	Dollar		716.00		9,073.54				8,997.79
John Maguire	Dollar		2,314.00		8,997.79				2,114.04
David Koger	Dollar		4,318.00		10,572.00				8,588.96
John Maguire			437.46						716.00
Randall Bookout	Dollar		1,919.00		9,233.46				9,073.54
Senator Olympia Snowe			298.46						2,314.00
Paul Matulic	Dollar		1,599.00		9,233.46				437.46
Sameer Bhalotra	Dollar		1,619.00		9,233.46				1,919.00
Randall Bookout	Dollar		1,958.00		8,722.00				298.46
Sameer Bhalotra	Dollar		1,994.00		8,722.00				1,599.00
Evan Gottesman	Dollar		1,848.00		8,820.54				9,233.46
Daniel Jones	Dollar		2,332.00		9,318.73				1,619.00
Andrew Kerr	Dollar		2,457.77		9,608.23				9,233.46
Eric Pelofsky	Dollar		1,867.00		9,604.83				9,233.46
James Smythers	Dollar		2,492.00		9,318.73				1,958.00
Gregory Thielmann	Dollar		1,727.00		9,608.23				8,722.00
Louis Tucker	Dollar		4,179.00		13,323.39				1,994.00
Thomas Corcoran	Dollar		4,379.00		13,323.39				8,722.00
Matthew Pollad	Dollar		3,791.00		13,323.39				1,848.00
John Dickas	Dollar		1,122.00		2,877.70				8,820.54
James Smythers	Dollar		1,157.00		2,877.70				2,332.00
Jennifer Wagner	Dollar		1,192.00		2,897.00				9,318.73
Senator Saxby Chambliss			1,007.00						2,457.77
Senator Richard Burr			1,007.00						9,608.23
Senator Bill Nelson			1,021.00						9,604.83
Teresa Ervin			1,007.00						2,492.00
James Smythers			847.00						9,318.73
Jennifer Wagner			1,007.00						1,727.00
Caroline Tess			1,021.00						4,179.00
Brenda Strickland			1,021.00						4,379.00
Total				65,098.32	227,711.22				292,809.54

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, IV,
Chairman, Committee on Intelligence, Oct. 19, 2007.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22
U.S.C. 1754(b), REPUBLICAN LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM JULY 1 TO SEPT. 30, 2007

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Tom Hawkins:									
United States	Dollar				8,164.33				8,164.33
Kuwait	Dollar		602.52						602.52
Belgium	Euro		414.00						414.00
Total			1,016.52		8,164.33				9,180.85

MITCH MCCONNELL,
Republican Leader, Sept. 24, 2007.

AUTHORITY TO FILE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the adjournment of the Senate, the Agriculture Committee be authorized to file an original bill and accompanying committee report until 3 p.m., Friday, November 2.

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

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194, as amended by Public Law 101-595, and upon the recommendation of the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: The Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE),

ex officio, as chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

BLINDED VETERANS PAIRED
ORGAN ACT OF 2007

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 328, S. 1163.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1163) to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve compensation and specially adapted housing for veterans in certain cases of impairment of vision involving both eyes, and to provide for the use of the National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Blinded Veterans Paired Organ Act of 2007".

TITLE I—LOW-VISION BENEFITS MATTERS
SEC. 101. MODIFICATION OF RATE OF VISUAL IMPAIRMENT FOR PAYMENT OF DISABILITY COMPENSATION.

Section 1114(o) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking "§200" and inserting "20/200".

SEC. 102. IMPROVEMENT IN COMPENSATION FOR VETERANS IN CERTAIN CASES OF IMPAIRMENT OF VISION INVOLVING BOTH EYES.

Section 1160(a)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "blindness" both places it appears and inserting "impairment of vision"; and (2) by striking "misconduct;" and inserting "misconduct if—

"(A) the impairment of vision in each eye is rated at a visual acuity of 20/200 or less; or

"(B) the peripheral field of vision for each eye is 20 degrees or less;".

SEC. 103. USE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES FOR INCOME VERIFICATION PURPOSES FOR CERTAIN VETERANS BENEFITS.

(a) USE OF INFORMATION IN NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES.—Chapter 53 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§5320. Use of National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes

"(a) INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF NEW HIRES.—(1) The Secretary shall furnish to the Secretary of Health and Human Services information in the custody of the Secretary on individuals under the age of 65 who are applicants for or recipients of benefits or services specified in subsection (d) for comparison with information on such individuals in the National Directory of New Hires maintained by the Secretary of Health and Human Services pursuant to section 453 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653). The Secretary shall furnish the information on a quarterly basis or at such other intervals as may be determined by the Secretary.

"(2) The Secretary shall furnish information under paragraph (1) with respect to any individual only if doing so is essential to determine the individual's eligibility for benefits and services specified in subsection (d) or the amount of benefits specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of subsection (d), to which the individual is entitled.

"(3)(A) The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall, in cooperation with the Secretary and in accordance with this subsection—

"(i) compare information in the National Directory of New Hires with information furnished pursuant to paragraph (1); and

"(ii) disclose information in that directory to the Secretary for the purposes specified in this subsection.

"(B) The Secretary of Health and Human Services may make a disclosure in accordance with subparagraph (A) only to the extent that the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines that such disclosure does not interfere with the effective operation of the program under part D of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 651 et seq.).

"(4) The Secretary may use information resulting from a data match pursuant to this subsection only for the purpose of determining eligibility for benefits and services specified in subsection (d), and the amount of benefits specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of that subsection, for individuals under the age of 65.

"(5) The Secretary shall reimburse the Secretary of Health and Human Services for the additional costs incurred by that Secretary in furnishing information under this subsection. Such reimbursement shall be at rates that the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines to be reasonable (and shall include payment for the costs of obtaining, verifying, maintaining, and comparing the information).

"(b) NOTIFICATION TO BENEFICIARIES.—The Secretary shall notify each applicant for, or recipient of, a benefit or service specified in subsection (d) that income information furnished by the applicant to the Secretary may be compared with information obtained by the Secretary from the Secretary of Health and Human Services under subsection (a). The Secretary shall periodically transmit to recipients of such benefits additional notices under this subsection.

"(c) INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary may terminate, deny, suspend, or reduce any benefit or service described in subsection (d) by reason of information obtained from the Secretary of Health and Human Services under subsection (a) only if the Secretary takes appropriate steps to verify independently information relating to employment and income from employment.

"(d) COVERED BENEFITS AND SERVICES.—The benefits and services specified in this subsection are the following:

"(1) Needs-based pension benefits provided under chapter 15 of this title or under any other law administered by the Secretary.

"(2) Parents' dependency and indemnity compensation provided under section 1315 of this title.

"(3) Health-care services furnished under subsections (a)(2)(G), (a)(3), and (b) of section 1710 of this title.

"(4) Compensation paid under chapter 11 of this title at the 100 percent rate based solely on unemployability and without regard to the fact that the disability or disabilities are not rated as 100 percent disabling under the rating schedule.

"(e) OPPORTUNITY TO CONTEST FINDINGS.—The Secretary shall inform the individual of the findings made by the Secretary on the basis of verified information under subsection (c), and shall give the individual an opportunity to contest such findings in the same manner as applies to other information and findings relating to eligibility for the benefit or service involved.

"(f) SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF SECTION.—The Secretary shall pay the expenses of carrying out this section from amounts available to the Department for the payment of compensation and pensions.

"(g) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Secretary to obtain information from the Secretary of Health and Human Services under subsection (a) expires on September 30, 2012."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"5320. Use of National Directory of New Hires for income verification purposes."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 5320 of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), shall take effect 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—BURIAL AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS MATTERS

SEC. 201. PROVISION OF MEDALLION OR OTHER DEVICE FOR PRIVATELY PURCHASED GRAVE MARKERS.

Section 2306(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(5) The Secretary may, upon request, furnish in lieu of a headstone or marker authorized by this subsection a medallion or other device of a design determined by the Secretary to signify the deceased's status as a veteran to be affixed to a headstone or marker purchased at private expense."

SEC. 202. INCREASE IN ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS INTERRED IN CEMETERIES OTHER THAN NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

(a) REPEAL OF TIME LIMITATION FOR STATE FILING FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR INTERMENT COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The second sentence of section 3.1604(d)(2) of title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, shall have no further force or effect as it pertains to unclaimed remains of a deceased veteran.

(2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The provision of paragraph (1) shall take effect as of October 1, 2006.

(b) GRANTS FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STATE VETERANS' CEMETERIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 2408 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) by inserting "(1)" before "Subject to";

(B) by designating the second sentence as paragraph (2) and indenting the margin of such paragraph, as so designated, two ems from the left margin; and

(C) in paragraph (1), as designated by subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, by striking "assist such State in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans' cemeteries owned by such State." and inserting "assist such State in the following:

"(A) Establishing, expanding, or improving veterans' cemeteries owned by such State.

"(B) Operating and maintaining such cemeteries."

(2) LIMITATION ON AMOUNTS AWARDED.—Subsection (e) of such section is amended—

(A) by inserting "(1)" before "Amounts"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) In any fiscal year, the aggregate amount of grants awarded under this section for the purposes specified in subsection (a)(1)(B) may not exceed \$5,000,000."

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(A) Subsection (b) of such section is amended—

(i) by striking "Grants under this section" and inserting "Grants under this section for the purposes described in subsection (a)(1)(A)"; and (ii) by striking "a grant under this section" each place it appears and inserting "such a grant"

(B) Subsection (d) of such section is amended by inserting ", or in operating and maintaining a veterans' cemetery," after "veterans' cemetery".

(C) Subsection (f)(1) of such section is amended by inserting ", or in operating and maintaining veterans' cemeteries," after "veterans' cemeteries".

(4) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall prescribe regulations to carry out the amendments made by this subsection.

SEC. 203. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITIES ON PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT HEADSTONES AND MARKERS FOR BURIALS OF VETERANS AT PRIVATE CEMETERIES.

(a) REPEAL OF EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—Subsection (d) of section 2306 of title 38, United

States Code, as amended by section 201 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3); and
(2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as added by section 201 as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively.

(b) **RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.**—Notwithstanding subsection (d) of section 502 of the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001 (Public Law 107–103; 115 Stat. 995; 38 U.S.C. 2306 note), the amendments made to section 2306(d) of title 38, United States Code, by such section 502 and the amendments made by section 402 of the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–461), other than the amendment made by subsection (e) of such section 402, shall take effect as of November 1, 1990, and shall apply with respect to the graves of individuals who have died on or after that day.

Mr. AKAKA. Madam President, I urge my colleagues to support S. 1163, as amended, the Blinded Veterans Paired Organ Act of 2007. This bill would expand benefit eligibility for veterans with service-connected vision impairment and enhance the burial and memorial benefits offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

This legislation, which I introduced in April of this year, has subsequently been amended and reported favorably by the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. As amended, S. 1163 would modify the standard that the Department of Veterans Affairs uses when determining blindness and improve compensation for veterans who experience impairment of vision in both eyes. The measure would also enhance burial and memorial benefits for veterans, and further maintain the integrity of veterans benefits by making certain that those in receipt of certain needs-based benefits qualify for such benefits.

Vision impairment is a serious disability that frequently results from injuries sustained on the battlefield. We are all aware that traumatic brain injuries caused by roadside bombs on the Iraqi highways are one of the greatest dangers that our service men and women face in Iraq. These injuries are frequently accompanied by damage to the individual's vision. As of August of this year, VA had granted service-connection for vision impairment to 230 veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. These veterans face significant readjustment challenges when they return to civilian life. Often, they find that they cannot resume the same occupations or daily activities that were staples of their lives before their injuries.

This bill would enhance disability compensation benefits for two distinct groups of veterans with impaired vision due to service—those with service-connected blindness in one eye who subsequently suffer loss of vision in the other eye later in life and those who receive special monthly compensation for multiple disabilities, including vision impairment. In both cases, this legislation would amend the vision impairment criteria used by VA so as to encompass veterans with 20/200 vision or less, the standard for blindness used by the Social Security Administration and the American Medical Association.

Earlier this session, the House passed a companion bill, H.R. 797, the Dr. James Allen Veteran Vision Equity Act, which would make the same change to the paired organ vision criteria as S. 1163. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the sponsor of that bill, Representative TAMMY BALDWIN of Wisconsin. A long-time ophthalmologist at the VA hospital in Madison, WI, Dr. James Allen, brought the issue to Representative BALDWIN's attention several years ago and she has since worked to make the necessary change on behalf of blinded veterans. Representative BALDWIN and Dr. Allen deserve thanks and credit for their efforts on behalf of veterans.

The amended bill also includes several provisions that would enhance burial and memorial benefits for veterans. I will briefly describe them.

The amended bill would permanently authorize VA to provide government headstones or markers for the privately-marked graves of veterans interred at private cemeteries. Current law authorizes VA to furnish, upon request, an appropriate headstone or marker for the grave of an eligible individual who died after September 10, 2001, and who is buried in a private cemetery, notwithstanding that the grave is marked by a headstone or marker furnished at private expense. Thus, in some cases, an individual's grave may have two markers—one privately-purchased and one furnished by VA. Prior to 2001, this authority had been suspended for 11 years, making those who died between November 1, 1990, and September 10, 2001, ineligible for the benefit. Furthermore, the current authority is only temporary, set to expire on December 31, 2007. This bill would address these temporal constraints by eliminating the sunset and making the authority permanent, and by making the authority retroactive to cover the 11-year gap in current law. In addition, this bill would give VA the authority to furnish a new medallion or other device that could be placed on an existing grave marker in a private cemetery to signify that the deceased was a veteran, in lieu of providing a second marker or headstone.

The amended bill would also repeal the current 2-year window within which States must file for reimbursement from VA for the interment or inurnment of the unclaimed remains of deceased veterans. To assist States in meeting some or all of their cemetery operations and maintenance expenses, current law requires VA to pay to States a \$300 plot allowance for the interment or inurnment of eligible veterans and reserve component members. In order to receive plot allowance revenue, States must currently submit claims within 2 years after the permanent burial or cremation of the remains has occurred. However, the 2-year window within which States must file can prove difficult to meet in situations in which remains are not identified as those of a veteran until after the 2-year period has expired.

Finally, the amended bill would authorize \$5 million to cover a portion of the operational and maintenance expenses of State cemeteries under criteria to be determined by VA. The need to incentivize greater participation by States in the State cemetery grant program was discussed in a December 19, 2000, VA-contracted report entitled *An Assessment of the Burial Benefits Administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs*. The report found that an option for better serving veterans and their families was to "provide maintenance support to State veterans cemeteries."

I am pleased to advise my colleagues that the provisions in this bill are paid for by utilizing the National Directory for New Hires to make certain that those in receipt of certain needs-based benefits qualify for such benefits. The savings from this provision more than pays for the expansion of benefits to veterans that are included in this bill.

This is a sensible bill that would provide small but important improvements to benefits of great importance to many veterans and their families. I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be read a third time; that the Veterans' Affairs Committee then be discharged of H.R. 797, the House companion, and the Senate then proceed to its consideration; that all after the enacting clause be stricken, and the text of S. 1163 be inserted in lieu thereof; that the bill be advanced to third reading, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that S. 1163 be returned to the calendar; and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

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

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1163) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The bill (H.R. 797), as amended, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time and passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2007

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. Monday, November 5; that on Monday, following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of Proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders reserved for their use later in the day; that there then be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that at 3 p.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2419, the

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farm bill; provided further that there be debate only after the majority manager has offered a substitute amendment.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 5, 2007, AT 2 P.M.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, if there is no further business, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate

stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:20 p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 5, 2007, at 2 p.m.