

improve its performance. I again thank the chairman and the ranking member for their support of this amendment and I thank my cosponsors Senators CRAIG, MOSELEY-BRAUN, and SARBANES.

In 1996, Congress provided a priority for funding the portion of the preservation program that provides for the transfer of these developments to community and resident-based nonprofit corporations. I have visited with residents in my home State who have worked for years to assemble funding packages and grant applications to achieve ownership of their dwellings. With this appropriation, the dreams of many across the Nation will come to fruition. But the demand for the sales program has been extraordinary and it is already clear that the \$500 million for fiscal year 1997 will not be enough. I am planning to work with the administration and the conferees on this bill to identify other possible sources of funding in order to meet this demand.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to comment on the Bond amendment related to HUD multifamily portfolio restructuring. We have been working very hard in a bipartisan manner in the Banking Committee to address this intractable problem. As others have described, the effort to lower high section 8 costs and avoid excessive FAA mortgage defaults—while at the same time preserving affordable housing—is complicated and costly. The demonstration for which the Bond amendment provides, represents a good first step toward putting in place a program for lowering section 8 costs and restructuring the mortgages in a sound way. Most important, the amendment states that the purpose of the demonstration is to preserve affordable housing and identifies the public interest in the future affordability of these properties. The amendment preserves project-based assistance and ensures that public agencies are involved in the restructuring.

I do have several concerns with the Bond amendment—particularly related to the role of the residents, the community, and the local government in the restructuring process—but I am confident the bipartisan approach Senator BOND has taken to this point with respect to this amendment will continue in the conference committee and I look forward to working with the chairman in making these improvements and in putting something in place until the authorizing committee can enact a permanent solution.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, let me thank the leaders for their cooperation in helping us come to what I had not expected to see at this point. We are deeply grateful for the accommodation. After we have acted on the pending amendments, then I believe we will be ready to go to third reading.

Thanks and appreciation to all involved, particularly my colleague, Senator MIKULSKI, and our staffs on both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, as we are just minutes away from the vote on four amendments and then final passage, I thank Senator BOND for his cooperation, respecting the voice of the minority, and for his very able staff and the way they worked with us; Senator LOTT, who worked with us to bring the bill to the floor; to the Democratic leader for his advocacy for all of the issues in this bill, and for creating a framework where we could get many things done; and also to my staff for the excellent work that they did.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. I would like to take a moment, too, to say to the chairman of the subcommittee and the ranking member, the managers of this legislation, they have done an excellent job. I know it has not been easy for them, many times, working with the leadership as we have tried to get agreement on a whole number of issues that were really unrelated to their legislation. I think they have done a great job with the bill itself. I apologize for us not being able to get it done before the August recess, but you have been very considerate in your willingness for us to do other things. I thank you for your work. You have done a good job and I am glad we are going to be able to complete it tonight. Although we have enjoyed having you on the floor all this week, you have done such a wonderful job, we still think it better to move on to other issues. Thank you for your good work.

AMENDMENT NO. 5194, AS AMENDED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 5194, as amended, offered by the Senator from New Mexico. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. FORD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, before we start, we had a minute on each side. Do they need it? I think we might as well get started. I don't think we need it on this particular amendment, but I wanted to be sure. Under the unanimous-consent agreement, there are 2 minutes equally divided prior to each piece of legislation.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I say to my colleague from Kentucky, I think on the Domenici-Wellstone amendment, we had a pretty thorough debate and discussion, so we probably don't need it on this one.

Mr. FORD. That is what I was saying. On the others, I wanted to alert the Chair to that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair thanks the minority whip. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. SMITH). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] would vote "yea."

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 82, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Leg.]

YEAS—82

Abraham	Feingold	McConnell
Akaka	Feinstein	Mikulski
Baucus	Ford	Moseley-Braun
Bennett	Frahm	Moynihan
Biden	Frist	Murray
Bingaman	Glenn	Nunn
Bond	Graham	Pell
Boxer	Grassley	Pressler
Bradley	Harkin	Pryor
Breaux	Hatch	Reid
Bryan	Heflin	Robb
Bumpers	Helms	Rockefeller
Burns	Hollings	Roth
Byrd	Hutchison	Santorum
Campbell	Jeffords	Sarbanes
Chafee	Johnston	Shelby
Cochran	Kassebaum	Simon
Cohen	Kempthorne	Simpson
Conrad	Kennedy	Snowe
Coverdell	Kerrey	Specter
Craig	Kerry	Stevens
D'Amato	Kohl	Thomas
Daschle	Lautenberg	Thurmond
DeWine	Leahy	Warner
Dodd	Levin	Wellstone
Domenici	Lieberman	Wyden
Dorgan	Lott	
Exon	Lugar	

NAYS—15

Ashcroft	Gramm	Mack
Brown	Grams	McCain
Coats	Gregg	Nickles
Faircloth	Inhofe	Smith
Gorton	Kyl	Thompson

NOT VOTING—3

Hatfield	Inouye	Murkowski
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The amendment (No. 5194), as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5197

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All succeeding votes will be 10-minute rollcall votes. The next order of business is amendment No. 5197, the amendment offered by the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN.

Mr. HARKIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we are ready to propound a unanimous-consent request. That way Members will know what they can expect for the next 3 days, Friday, Monday, and Tuesday. We will go through this now and then we will go to the brief explanation on the Harkin amendment and go to final vote. Members have been asking, Mr. President, what will be the items that we will go to next. Rather than answer one by one I thought I could go ahead and outline this. I want to thank

the leader for his work in trying to put it together.

I ask unanimous consent that at 9:30 on Friday the Senate turn to the immediate consideration of a bill to be introduced tonight by Senator KENNEDY regarding employment discrimination, and the bill be placed on the calendar, the text of which will be submitted in the form of an amendment to Calendar No. 499, and there be a time limitation of 3 hours to be equally divided in the usual form with no amendments or motions to refer in order.

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

Mr. LOTT. I further ask that at 9:30 on Tuesday the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 499, the Defense of Marriage Act and it be considered under the same terms as outlined above, with 45 minutes under the control of Senator BYRD.

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

Mr. LOTT. I further ask that the vote regarding passage of Calendar No. 499 occur immediately following the vote with respect to the Department of Defense authorization conference report on Tuesday, September 10, and following that vote there be 30 minutes for debate on the Kennedy bill to be equally divided in the usual form with the vote to occur following the conclusion or yielding back of the time on Tuesday.

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

Mr. LOTT. I further ask that following the disposition of the employment discrimination bill on Tuesday, September 10, the Senate proceed to the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill.

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

Mr. LOTT. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motion filed earlier this evening with respect to Calendar No. 499 be vitiated since it is no longer needed.

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

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will proceed to four remaining back-to-back votes regarding the HUD-VA bill and the Iraqi resolution. There will be no further votes following passage.

On Friday the Senate will debate the employment discrimination bill introduced by Senator KENNEDY and also conduct a period for morning business. However, no votes will occur on Friday. On Monday, the Senate will debate the Department of Defense authorization conference report under previous consent. Also, the Senate will conduct a period for morning business. No votes will occur during Monday's session of the Senate. On Tuesday, the Senate will debate the defense of marriage bill, and at 2:15 a series of votes will occur beginning with the DOD authorization conference report. Following those stacked votes, the Senate will proceed to the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill.

I want to thank all Senators and the Democratic leader for their cooperation. Now it does make it possible for us not to have votes on Friday and Monday, but allows for us to accomplish a great deal of our work together, have debate, and then have stacked votes on Tuesday. We will be able to proceed with getting our work done with a minimum disruption of commitments that Senators must necessarily fulfill.

Mr. DASCHLE. If the majority leader will yield just for a clarification, I say at the outset that I support entirely the result of these negotiations, and I appreciate very much everyone's cooperation.

On the first page of the unanimous-consent agreement, in reference to the bill to be offered by Senator KENNEDY, on the bottom line it asks unanimous consent that the bill be equally divided in the usual form, with a vote to occur on Tuesday. It did not say a vote on final passage. I assume the majority leader meant a vote on final passage.

Mr. LOTT. That is correct. I amend that request to include that a vote on final passage occur following the conclusion or yielding back of the time. I ask unanimous consent that the agreement be modified to reflect that.

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

Mr. NICKLES addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, am I correct that when we are talking about the Defense of Marriage Act on Tuesday, that will be a vote on final passage as well?

Mr. LOTT. It would be, yes, immediately after the vote on the Department of Defense conference report at 2:15, between 2:30 and 2:45.

I yield the floor.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 5197

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business is the Harkin amendment. There are 2 minutes equally divided. Who seeks recognition?

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, what this amendment does is it basically is a hold-harmless amendment. There is no contradiction between this amendment and the McCain amendment of last night. This amendment says that any increases can go to these States, but no State this year can get less than what it did last year. It is almost commonly held around here that when we make major changes in formulas, we always have a 1-year hold harmless as a bridge. That is what this amendment does; it makes that bridge.

What I am saying, basically, is that this vote on this amendment I have offered means that a lot of States will

not be severely cut in their veterans health benefits this year. It holds them harmless. But it says to those high-growth States, like Arizona, Florida, and others, they can go ahead and get the increase. But there will not be big cuts in a lot of other States.

I suggest that people might want to check to see what is going to happen to their States if the McCain amendment is adopted without this hold-harmless clause. I know people say we have to treat veterans equitably, and we do. But in a lot of the States, like Pennsylvania, New York, Iowa, and a lot of Northern States, our veterans are older, poorer, and sicker, and it costs more. That is not taken into account in the McCain amendment, and it is in mine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, the Veterans' Administration Undersecretary for Health is doing an outstanding job in bringing modern, efficient, effective, and compassionate health care to our Nation's veterans. He testified before my subcommittee earlier this year that one of the barriers about which he was most concerned in attempting to change and improve the way the Veterans' Administration operates is the Congress. The Harkin amendment is precisely what the Veterans' Administration feared, because it would prevent the Veterans' Administration from making changes to see that the older and sicker veterans, wherever they live, get the care that they need.

The Veterans' Administration opposes this amendment because it would prevent them from efficiently allocating resources to meet veterans' health needs in the most effective manner. I, therefore, move to table the amendment and ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on agreeing to the motion to table.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] and the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] would vote "yea."

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. INOUE] is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 275 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Abraham	Ashcroft	Bingaman
Akaka	Bennett	Bond