

as we did during consideration of the Higher Education Act and pass this resolution. It is my hope that in adopting this resolution, it will bring us one step closer to adopting higher levels of funding for these important programs. In funding these programs at a higher level we will be making the dream of college a reality for so many young people. We will be helping motivated and engaged young people to achieve to the full level of their potential.

I urge my colleagues to join us in sponsoring this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 81—DESIGNATING THE YEAR OF 1999 AS “THE YEAR OF SAFE DRINKING WATER” AND COMMEMORATING THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. REID) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 81

Whereas clean and safe drinking water is essential to every American;

Whereas the health, comfort, and standard of living of all people in this Nation depends upon a sufficient supply of safe drinking water;

Whereas behind every drop of clean water are the combined efforts of thousands of water plant operators, engineers, scientists, public and environmental advocacy groups, legislators, and regulatory officials;

Whereas public health protection took an historic leap when society began treating water to remove disease-causing organisms;

Whereas over 180,000 individual water systems in the United States serve over 250,000,000 Americans;

Whereas the Safe Drinking Water Act is one of the most significant legislative landmarks in 20th century public health protection;

Whereas the enactment of the Safe Drinking Water Act on December 16, 1974, enabled the United States to take great strides toward the protection of public health by treating and monitoring drinking water, protecting sources of drinking water, and providing consumers with more information regarding their drinking water;

Whereas Americans rightfully expect to drink the best water possible, and expect advances in the public health sciences, water treatment methods, and the identification of potential contaminants; and

Whereas the continued high quality of drinking water in this country depends upon advancing drinking water research, vigilantly monitoring current operations, increasing citizen understanding, investing in infrastructure, and protecting sources of drinking water: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the year of 1999 as “The Year of Safe Drinking Water”;

(2) commemorates the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the year with appropriate programs that enhance public awareness of—

(A) drinking water issues;

(B) the advancements made by the United States in the quality of drinking water during the past 25 years; and

(C) the challenges that lie ahead in further protecting public health.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE DESIGNATION OF EMERGENCIES AS A PART OF THE BUDGET PROCESS

LOTT AMENDMENTS NOS. 256–258

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. LOTT submitted three amendments intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 557) to provide guidance for the designation of emergencies as a part of the budget process; as follows:

AMENDMENT No. 256

At the end of the instructions add the following:

with an amendment as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE II—SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS PRESERVATION AND DEBT REDUCTION ACT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Social Security Surplus Preservation and Debt Reduction Act”.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the \$69,246,000,000 unified budget surplus achieved in fiscal year 1998 was entirely due to surpluses generated by the social security trust funds and the cumulative unified budget surpluses projected for subsequent fiscal years are primarily due to surpluses generated by the social security trust funds;

(2) Congress and the President should balance the budget excluding the surpluses generated by the social security trust funds;

(3) according to the Congressional Budget Office, balancing the budget excluding the surpluses generated by the social security trust funds will reduce the debt held by the public by a total of \$1,723,000,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 2009; and

(4) social security surpluses should be used for social security reform or to reduce the debt held by the public and should not be spent on other programs.

SEC. 203. PROTECTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS.

(a) PROTECTION BY CONGRESS.—

(1) REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT.—Congress reaffirms its support for the provisions of section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 that provides that the receipts and disbursements of the social security trust funds shall not be counted for the purposes of the budget submitted by the President, the congressional budget, or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(2) PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.—If there are sufficient balances in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, the Secretary of Treasury shall give priority to the payment of social security benefits required to be paid by law.

(b) POINTS OF ORDER.—Section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) SOCIAL SECURITY POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a concurrent resolution on the budget, an amendment thereto, or a conference re-

port thereon that violates section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990.

“(k) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that would—

“(1) increase the limit on the debt held by the public in section 253A(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; or

“(2) provide additional borrowing authority that would result in the limit on the debt held by the public in section 253A(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 being exceeded.

“(l) SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS PROTECTION POINT OF ORDER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a concurrent resolution on the budget, an amendment thereto, or a conference report thereon that sets forth a deficit in any fiscal year.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if—

“(A) the limit on the debt held by the public in section 253A(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is suspended; or

“(B) the deficit for a fiscal year results solely from the enactment of—

“(i) social security reform legislation, as defined in section 253A(e)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; or

“(ii) provisions of legislation that are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) or 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.”.

(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsections (c)(1) and (d)(2) of section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are amended by striking “305(b)(2),” and inserting “301(k), 301(l), 305(b)(2), 318.”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 318 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as added by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR DEFENSE SPENDING.—Subsection (b) shall not apply against an emergency designation for a provision making discretionary appropriations in the defense category.”.

SEC. 204. DEDICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUSES TO REDUCTION IN THE DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974.—The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended—

(1) in section 3, by adding at the end the following:

“(11)(A) The term ‘debt held by the public’ means the outstanding face amount of all debt obligations issued by the United States Government that are held by outside investors, including individuals, corporations, State or local governments, foreign governments, and the Federal Reserve System.

“(B) For the purpose of this paragraph, the term ‘face amount’, for any month, of any debt obligation issued on a discount basis that is not redeemable before maturity at the option of the holder of the obligation is an amount equal to the sum of—

“(i) the original issue price of the obligation; plus

“(ii) the portion of the discount on the obligation attributable to periods before the beginning of such month.

“(12) The term ‘social security surplus’ means the amount for a fiscal year that receipts exceed outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.”;

(2) in section 301(a) by—

(A) redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectfully; and

(B) inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) the debt held by the public; and”; and
(3) in section 310(a) by—
(A) striking “or” at the end of paragraph (3);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) inserting the following new paragraph:
“(4) specify the amounts by which the statutory limit on the debt held by the public is to be changed and direct the committee having jurisdiction to recommend such change; or”.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985.—The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended—

(1) in section 250, by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) GENERAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—This part provides for the enforcement of—

“(1) a balanced budget excluding the receipts and disbursements of the social security trust funds; and

“(2) a limit on the debt held by the public to ensure that social security surpluses are used for social security reform or to reduce debt held by the public and are not spent on other programs.”;

(2) in section 250(c)(1), by inserting “‘debt held by the public’, ‘social security surplus’” after “outlays”; and

(3) by inserting after section 253 the following:

“SEC. 253A. DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC LIMIT.

“(a) LIMIT.—The debt held by the public shall not exceed—

“(1) for the period beginning May 1, 2000 through April 30, 2001, \$3,628,000,000,000;

“(2) for the period beginning May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2002, \$3,512,000,000,000;

“(3) for the period beginning May 1, 2002 through April 30, 2004, \$3,383,000,000,000;

“(4) for the period beginning May 1, 2004 through April 30, 2006, \$3,100,000,000,000;

“(5) for the period beginning May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2008, \$2,775,000,000,000; and,

“(6) for the period beginning May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2010, \$2,404,000,000,000.

“(b) ADJUSTMENTS FOR ACTUAL SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS LEVELS.—

“(1) ESTIMATED LEVELS.—The estimated level of social security surpluses for the purposes of this section is—

“(A) for fiscal year 1999, \$127,000,000,000;

“(B) for fiscal year 2000, \$137,000,000,000;

“(C) for fiscal year 2001, \$145,000,000,000;

“(D) for fiscal year 2002, \$153,000,000,000;

“(E) for fiscal year 2003, \$162,000,000,000;

“(F) for fiscal year 2004, \$171,000,000,000;

“(G) for fiscal year 2005, \$184,000,000,000;

“(H) for fiscal year 2006, \$193,000,000,000;

“(I) for fiscal year 2007, \$204,000,000,000;

“(J) for fiscal year 2008, \$212,000,000,000; and

“(K) for fiscal year 2009, \$218,000,000,000.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR ACTUAL SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUSES.—After October 1 and no later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary shall make the following calculations and adjustments:

“(A) CALCULATION.—After the Secretary determines the actual level for the social security surplus for the current year, the Secretary shall take the estimated level of the social security surplus for that year specified in paragraph (1) and subtract that actual level.

“(B) ADJUSTMENT.—

“(i) 2000 THROUGH 2004.—With respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3), the Secretary shall add the amount calculated under subparagraph (A) to—

“(I) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that begins on May 1st of the following calendar year; and

“(II) each subsequent limit.

“(ii) 2004 THROUGH 2010.—With respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6), the Secretary shall add the amount calculated under subparagraph (A) to—

“(I) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that includes May 1st of the following calendar year; and

“(II) each subsequent limit.

“(c) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR EMERGENCIES.—

“(1) ESTIMATE OF LEGISLATION.—

“(A) CALCULATION.—If legislation is enacted into law that contains a provision that is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) or 252(e), OMB shall estimate the amount the debt held by the public will change as a result of the provision's effect on the level of total outlays and receipts excluding the impact on outlays and receipts of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

“(B) BASELINE LEVELS.—OMB shall calculate the changes in subparagraph (A) relative to baseline levels for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2010 using current estimates.

“(C) ESTIMATE.—OMB shall include the estimate required by this paragraph in the report required under section 251(a)(7) or section 252(d), as the case may be.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT.—After January 1 and no later than May 1 of each calendar year beginning with calendar year 2000—

“(A) with respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3), the Secretary shall add the amounts calculated under paragraph (1)(A) for the current year included in the report referenced in paragraph (1)(C) to—

“(i) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that begins on May 1 of that calendar year; and

“(ii) each subsequent limit; and

“(B) with respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6), the Secretary shall add the amounts calculated under paragraph (1)(A) for the current year included in the report referenced in paragraph (1)(C) to—

“(i) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that includes May 1 of that calendar year; and

“(ii) each subsequent limit.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall not make the adjustments pursuant to this section if the adjustments for the current year are less than the on-budget surplus for the year before the current year.

“(d) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WAR.—

“(1) SUSPENSION OF STATUTORY LIMIT ON DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—

“(A) LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH.—If the most recent of the Department of Commerce's advance, preliminary, or final reports of actual real economic growth indicate that the rate of real economic growth for each of the most recently reported quarter and the immediately preceding quarter is less than 1 percent, the limit on the debt held by the public established in this section is suspended.

“(B) WAR.—If a declaration of war is in effect, the limit on the debt held by the public established in this section is suspended.

“(2) RESTORATION OF STATUTORY LIMIT ON DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—

“(A) RESTORATION OF LIMIT.—The statutory limit on debt held by the public shall be restored on May 1 following the quarter in which the level of real Gross Domestic Product in the final report from the Department of Commerce is equal to or is higher than the level of real Gross Domestic Product in the quarter preceding the first two quarters that

caused the suspension of the pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(B) ADJUSTMENT.—

“(i) CALCULATION.—The Secretary shall take level of the debt held by the public on October 1 of the year preceding the date referenced in subparagraph (A) and subtract the limit in subsection (a) for the period of years that includes the date referenced in subparagraph (A).

“(ii) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary shall add the amount calculated under clause (i) to—

“(I) the limit in subsection (a) for the period of fiscal years that includes the date referenced in subparagraph (A); and

“(II) each subsequent limit.

“(e) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM PROVISIONS THAT AFFECT ON-BUDGET LEVELS.—

“(1) ESTIMATE OF LEGISLATION.—

“(A) CALCULATION.—If social security reform legislation is enacted, OMB shall estimate the amount the debt held by the public will change as a result of the legislation's effect on the level of total outlays and receipts excluding the impact on outlays and receipts of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

“(B) BASELINE LEVELS.—OMB shall calculate the changes in subparagraph (A) relative to baseline levels for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2010 using current estimates.

“(C) ESTIMATE.—OMB shall include the estimate required by this paragraph in the report required under section 252(d) for social security reform legislation.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT TO LIMIT ON THE DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—If social security reform legislation is enacted, the Secretary shall adjust the limit on the debt held by the public for each period of fiscal years by the amounts determined under paragraph (1)(A) for the relevant fiscal years included in the report referenced in paragraph (1)(C).

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(2) SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM LEGISLATION.—The term ‘social security reform legislation’ means a bill or joint resolution that is enacted into law and includes a provision stating the following:

“() SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM LEGISLATION.—For the purposes of the Social Security Surplus Preservation and Debt Reduction Act, this Act constitutes social security reform legislation.”

This paragraph shall apply only to the first bill or joint resolution enacted into law as described in this paragraph.

“(3) SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM PROVISIONS.—The term ‘social security reform provisions’ means a provision or provisions identified in social security reform legislation stating the following:

“() SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM PROVISIONS.—For the purposes of the Social Security Surplus Preservation and Debt Reduction Act, _____ of this Act constitutes or constitute social security reform provisions’, with a list of specific provisions in that bill or joint resolution specified in the blank space.”.

SEC. 205. PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.

Section 1105(f) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “in a manner consistent” and inserting “in compliance”.

SEC. 206. SUNSET.

This title and the amendments made by this title shall expire on April 30, 2010.

AMENDMENT NO. 257

At the end of the instructions add the following:

with an amendment as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE II—SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS PRESERVATION AND DEBT REDUCTION ACT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Social Security Surplus Preservation and Debt Reduction Act”.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the \$69,246,000,000 unified budget surplus achieved in fiscal year 1998 was entirely due to surpluses generated by the social security trust funds and the cumulative unified budget surpluses projected for subsequent fiscal years are primarily due to surpluses generated by the social security trust funds;

(2) Congress and the President should balance the budget excluding the surpluses generated by the social security trust funds;

(3) according to the Congressional Budget Office, balancing the budget excluding the surpluses generated by the social security trust funds will reduce the debt held by the public by a total of \$1,723,000,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 2009; and

(4) social security surpluses should be used for social security reform or to reduce the debt held by the public and should not be spent on other programs.

SEC. 203. PROTECTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS.

(a) PROTECTION BY CONGRESS.—

(1) REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT.—Congress reaffirms its support for the provisions of section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 that provides that the receipts and disbursements of the social security trust funds shall not be counted for the purposes of the budget submitted by the President, the congressional budget, or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(2) PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.—If there are sufficient balances in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, the Secretary of Treasury shall give priority to the payment of social security benefits required to be paid by law.

(b) POINTS OF ORDER.—Section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) SOCIAL SECURITY POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a concurrent resolution on the budget, an amendment thereto, or a conference report thereon that violates section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990.

“(k) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that would—

“(1) increase the limit on the debt held by the public in section 253A(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; or

“(2) provide additional borrowing authority that would result in the limit on the debt held by the public in section 253A(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 being exceeded.

“(l) SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS PROTECTION POINT OF ORDER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a concurrent resolution on the budget, an amendment thereto, or a conference report thereon that sets forth a deficit in any fiscal year.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if—

“(A) the limit on the debt held by the public in section 253A(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is suspended; or

“(B) the deficit for a fiscal year results solely from the enactment of—

“(i) social security reform legislation, as defined in section 253A(e)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; or

“(ii) provisions of legislation that are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) or 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.”.

(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsections (c)(1) and (d)(2) of section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are amended by striking “305(b)(2),” and inserting “301(k), 301(l), 305(b)(2), 318.”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 318 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as added by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR DEFENSE SPENDING.—Subsection (b) shall not apply against an emergency designation for a provision making discretionary appropriations in the defense category.”.

SEC. 204. DEDICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUSES TO REDUCTION IN THE DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974.—The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended—

(1) in section 3, by adding at the end the following:

“(11)(A) The term ‘debt held by the public’ means the outstanding face amount of all debt obligations issued by the United States Government that are held by outside investors, including individuals, corporations, State or local governments, foreign governments, and the Federal Reserve System.

“(B) For the purpose of this paragraph, the term ‘face amount’, for any month, of any debt obligation issued on a discount basis that is not redeemable before maturity at the option of the holder of the obligation is an amount equal to the sum of—

“(i) the original issue price of the obligation; plus

“(ii) the portion of the discount on the obligation attributable to periods before the beginning of such month.

“(12) The term ‘social security surplus’ means the amount for a fiscal year that receipts exceed outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.”;

(2) in section 301(a) by—

(A) redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectfully; and

(B) inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) the debt held by the public; and”; and

(3) in section 310(a) by—

(A) striking “or” at the end of paragraph (3);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) inserting the following new paragraph;

“(4) specify the amounts by which the statutory limit on the debt held by the public is to be changed and direct the committee having jurisdiction to recommend such change; or”.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985.—The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended—

(1) in section 250, by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) GENERAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—This part provides for the enforcement of—

“(1) a balanced budget excluding the receipts and disbursements of the social security trust funds; and

“(2) a limit on the debt held by the public to ensure that social security surpluses are used for social security reform or to reduce debt held by the public and are not spent on other programs.”;

(2) in section 250(c)(1), by inserting “‘debt held by the public’, ‘social security surplus’” after “‘outlays’”; and

(3) by inserting after section 253 the following:

“SEC. 253A. DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC LIMIT.

“(a) LIMIT.—The debt held by the public shall not exceed—

“(1) for the period beginning May 1, 2000 through April 30, 2001, \$3,628,000,000,000;

“(2) for the period beginning May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2002, \$3,512,000,000,000;

“(3) for the period beginning May 1, 2002 through April 30, 2004, \$3,383,000,000,000;

“(4) for the period beginning May 1, 2004 through April 30, 2006, \$3,100,000,000,000;

“(5) for the period beginning May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2008, \$2,775,000,000,000; and,

“(6) for the period beginning May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2010, \$2,404,000,000,000.

“(b) ADJUSTMENTS FOR ACTUAL SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS LEVELS.—

“(1) ESTIMATED LEVELS.—The estimated level of social security surpluses for the purposes of this section is—

“(A) for fiscal year 1999, \$127,000,000,000;

“(B) for fiscal year 2000, \$137,000,000,000;

“(C) for fiscal year 2001, \$145,000,000,000;

“(D) for fiscal year 2002, \$153,000,000,000;

“(E) for fiscal year 2003, \$162,000,000,000;

“(F) for fiscal year 2004, \$171,000,000,000;

“(G) for fiscal year 2005, \$184,000,000,000;

“(H) for fiscal year 2006, \$193,000,000,000;

“(I) for fiscal year 2007, \$204,000,000,000;

“(J) for fiscal year 2008, \$212,000,000,000; and

“(K) for fiscal year 2009, \$218,000,000,000.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR ACTUAL SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUSES.—After October 1 and no later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary shall make the following calculations and adjustments:

“(A) CALCULATION.—After the Secretary determines the actual level for the social security surplus for the current year, the Secretary shall take the estimated level of the social security surplus for that year specified in paragraph (1) and subtract that actual level.

“(B) ADJUSTMENT.—

“(i) 2000 THROUGH 2004.—With respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3), the Secretary shall add the amount calculated under subparagraph (A) to—

“(I) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that begins on May 1st of the following calendar year; and

“(II) each subsequent limit.

“(ii) 2004 THROUGH 2010.—With respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6), the Secretary shall add the amount calculated under subparagraph (A) to—

“(I) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that includes May 1st of the following calendar year; and

“(II) each subsequent limit.

“(c) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR EMERGENCIES.—

“(1) ESTIMATE OF LEGISLATION.—

“(A) CALCULATION.—If legislation is enacted into law that contains a provision that is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) or 252(e), OMB shall estimate the amount the debt held by the public will change as a result of the provision’s effect on the level of total outlays and receipts excluding the impact on outlays and receipts of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

“(B) BASELINE LEVELS.—OMB shall calculate the changes in subparagraph (A) relative to baseline levels for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2010 using current estimates.

“(C) ESTIMATE.—OMB shall include the estimate required by this paragraph in the report required under section 251(a)(7) or section 252(d), as the case may be.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT.—After January 1 and no later than May 1 of each calendar year beginning with calendar year 2000—

“(A) with respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3), the Secretary shall add the amounts calculated under paragraph (1)(A) for the current year included in the report referenced in paragraph (1)(C) to—

“(i) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that begins on May 1 of that calendar year; and

“(ii) each subsequent limit; and

“(B) with respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6), the Secretary shall add the amounts calculated under paragraph (1)(A) for the current year included in the report referenced in paragraph (1)(C) to—

“(i) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that includes May 1 of that calendar year; and

“(ii) each subsequent limit.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall not make the adjustments pursuant to this section if the adjustments for the current year are less than the on-budget surplus for the year before the current year.

“(d) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WAR.—

“(1) SUSPENSION OF STATUTORY LIMIT ON DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—

“(A) LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH.—If the most recent of the Department of Commerce's advance, preliminary, or final reports of actual real economic growth indicate that the rate of real economic growth for each of the most recently reported quarter and the immediately preceding quarter is less than 1 percent, the limit on the debt held by the public established in this section is suspended.

“(B) WAR.—If a declaration of war is in effect, the limit on the debt held by the public established in this section is suspended.

“(2) RESTORATION OF STATUTORY LIMIT ON DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—

“(A) RESTORATION OF LIMIT.—The statutory limit on debt held by the public shall be restored on May 1 following the quarter in which the level of real Gross Domestic Product in the final report from the Department of Commerce is equal to or is higher than the level of real Gross Domestic Product in the quarter preceding the first two quarters that caused the suspension of the pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(B) ADJUSTMENT.—

“(i) CALCULATION.—The Secretary shall take level of the debt held by the public on October 1 of the year preceding the date referenced in subparagraph (A) and subtract the limit in subsection (a) for the period of years that includes the date referenced in subparagraph (A).

“(ii) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary shall add the amount calculated under clause (i) to—

“(I) the limit in subsection (a) for the period of fiscal years that includes the date referenced in subparagraph (A); and

“(II) each subsequent limit.

“(e) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM PROVISIONS THAT AFFECT ON-BUDGET LEVELS.—

“(1) ESTIMATE OF LEGISLATION.—

“(A) CALCULATION.—If social security reform legislation is enacted, OMB shall estimate the amount the debt held by the public will change as a result of the legislation's effect on the level of total outlays and receipts excluding the impact on outlays and receipts of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

“(B) BASELINE LEVELS.—OMB shall calculate the changes in subparagraph (A) relative to baseline levels for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2010 using current estimates.

“(C) ESTIMATE.—OMB shall include the estimate required by this paragraph in the report required under section 252(d) for social security reform legislation.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT TO LIMIT ON THE DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—If social security reform legislation is enacted, the Secretary shall adjust the limit on the debt held by the public for each period of fiscal years by the amounts determined under paragraph (1)(A) for the relevant fiscal years included in the report referenced in paragraph (1)(C).

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(2) SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM LEGISLATION.—The term ‘social security reform legislation’ means a bill or joint resolution that is enacted into law and includes a provision stating the following:

“() SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM LEGISLATION.—For the purposes of the Social Security Surplus Preservation and Debt Reduction Act, this Act constitutes social security reform legislation.”

This paragraph shall apply only to the first bill or joint resolution enacted into law as described in this paragraph.

“(3) SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM PROVISIONS.—The term ‘social security reform provisions’ means a provision or provisions identified in social security reform legislation stating the following:

“() SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM PROVISIONS.—For the purposes of the Social Security Surplus Preservation and Debt Reduction Act, _____ of this Act constitutes or constitute social security reform provisions.’, with a list of specific provisions in that bill or joint resolution specified in the blank space.”

SEC. 205. PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.

Section 1105(f) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “in a manner consistent” and inserting “in compliance”.

SEC. 206. SUNSET.

This title and the amendments made by this title shall expire on April 30, 2010.

AMENDMENT NO. 258

At the end of the instructions add the following:

with an amendment as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE II—SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS PRESERVATION AND DEBT REDUCTION ACT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Social Security Surplus Preservation and Debt Reduction Act”.

SEC. 202. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) the \$69,246,000,000 unified budget surplus achieved in fiscal year 1998 was entirely due to surpluses generated by the social security trust funds and the cumulative unified budget surpluses projected for subsequent fiscal years are primarily due to surpluses generated by the social security trust funds;

(2) Congress and the President should balance the budget excluding the surpluses generated by the social security trust funds;

(3) according to the Congressional Budget Office, balancing the budget excluding the surpluses generated by the social security trust funds will reduce the debt held by the public by a total of \$1,723,000,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 2009; and

(4) social security surpluses should be used for social security reform or to reduce the

debt held by the public and should not be spent on other programs.

SEC. 203. PROTECTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS.

(a) PROTECTION BY CONGRESS.—

(1) REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT.—Congress reaffirms its support for the provisions of section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990 that provides that the receipts and disbursements of the social security trust funds shall not be counted for the purposes of the budget submitted by the President, the congressional budget, or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(2) PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS.—If there are sufficient balances in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, the Secretary of Treasury shall give priority to the payment of social security benefits required to be paid by law.

(b) POINTS OF ORDER.—Section 301 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) SOCIAL SECURITY POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a concurrent resolution on the budget, an amendment thereto, or a conference report thereon that violates section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990.

“(k) DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, motion, or conference report that would—

“(1) increase the limit on the debt held by the public in section 253A(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; or

“(2) provide additional borrowing authority that would result in the limit on the debt held by the public in section 253A(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 being exceeded.

“(l) SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS PROTECTION POINT OF ORDER.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a concurrent resolution on the budget, an amendment thereto, or a conference report thereon that sets forth a deficit in any fiscal year.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply if—

“(A) the limit on the debt held by the public in section 253A(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is suspended; or

“(B) the deficit for a fiscal year results solely from the enactment of—

“(i) social security reform legislation, as defined in section 253A(e)(2) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985; or

“(ii) provisions of legislation that are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) or 252(e) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.”

(c) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEAL.—Subsections (c)(1) and (d)(2) of section 904 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 are amended by striking “305(b)(2),” and inserting “301(k), 301(l), 305(b)(2), 318.”

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 318 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as added by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) EXCEPTION FOR DEFENSE SPENDING.—Subsection (b) shall not apply against an emergency designation for a provision making discretionary appropriations in the defense category.”

SEC. 204. DEDICATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUSES TO REDUCTION IN THE DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974.—The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is amended—

(1) in section 3, by adding at the end the following:

“(11)(A) The term ‘debt held by the public’ means the outstanding face amount of all debt obligations issued by the United States Government that are held by outside investors, including individuals, corporations, State or local governments, foreign governments, and the Federal Reserve System.

“(B) For the purpose of this paragraph, the term ‘face amount’, for any month, of any debt obligation issued on a discount basis that is not redeemable before maturity at the option of the holder of the obligation is an amount equal to the sum of—

“(i) the original issue price of the obligation; plus

“(ii) the portion of the discount on the obligation attributable to periods before the beginning of such month.

“(12) The term ‘social security surplus’ means the amount for a fiscal year that receipts exceed outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.”;

(2) in section 301(a) by—

(A) redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively; and

(B) inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

“(6) the debt held by the public; and”;

(3) in section 310(a) by—

(A) striking “or” at the end of paragraph (3);

(B) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(C) inserting the following new paragraph:

“(4) specify the amounts by which the statutory limit on the debt held by the public is to be changed and direct the committee having jurisdiction to recommend such change; or”.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE BALANCED BUDGET AND EMERGENCY DEFICIT CONTROL ACT OF 1985.—The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended—

(1) in section 250, by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) GENERAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—This part provides for the enforcement of—

“(1) a balanced budget excluding the receipts and disbursements of the social security trust funds; and

“(2) a limit on the debt held by the public to ensure that social security surpluses are used for social security reform or to reduce debt held by the public and are not spent on other programs.”;

(2) in section 250(c)(1), by inserting “‘debt held by the public’, ‘social security surplus’” after “outlays.”; and

(3) by inserting after section 253 the following:

“SEC. 253A. DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC LIMIT.

“(a) LIMIT.—The debt held by the public shall not exceed—

“(1) for the period beginning May 1, 2000 through April 30, 2001, \$3,628,000,000,000;

“(2) for the period beginning May 1, 2001 through April 30, 2002, \$3,512,000,000,000;

“(3) for the period beginning May 1, 2002 through April 30, 2004, \$3,383,000,000,000;

“(4) for the period beginning May 1, 2004 through April 30, 2006, \$3,100,000,000,000;

“(5) for the period beginning May 1, 2006 through April 30, 2008, \$2,775,000,000,000; and,

“(6) for the period beginning May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2010, \$2,404,000,000,000.

“(b) ADJUSTMENTS FOR ACTUAL SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS LEVELS.—

“(1) ESTIMATED LEVELS.—The estimated level of social security surpluses for the purposes of this section is—

“(A) for fiscal year 1999, \$127,000,000,000;

“(B) for fiscal year 2000, \$137,000,000,000;

“(C) for fiscal year 2001, \$145,000,000,000;

“(D) for fiscal year 2002, \$153,000,000,000;

“(E) for fiscal year 2003, \$162,000,000,000;

“(F) for fiscal year 2004, \$171,000,000,000;

“(G) for fiscal year 2005, \$184,000,000,000;

“(H) for fiscal year 2006, \$193,000,000,000;

“(I) for fiscal year 2007, \$204,000,000,000;

“(J) for fiscal year 2008, \$212,000,000,000; and

“(K) for fiscal year 2009, \$218,000,000,000.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR ACTUAL SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUSES.—After October 1 and no later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary shall make the following calculations and adjustments:

“(A) CALCULATION.—After the Secretary determines the actual level for the social security surplus for the current year, the Secretary shall take the estimated level of the social security surplus for that year specified in paragraph (1) and subtract that actual level.

“(B) ADJUSTMENT.—

“(i) 2000 THROUGH 2004.—With respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3), the Secretary shall add the amount calculated under subparagraph (A) to—

“(I) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that begins on May 1st of the following calendar year; and

“(II) each subsequent limit.

“(ii) 2004 THROUGH 2010.—With respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6), the Secretary shall add the amount calculated under subparagraph (A) to—

“(I) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that includes May 1st of the following calendar year; and

“(II) each subsequent limit.

“(c) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR EMERGENCIES.—

“(1) ESTIMATE OF LEGISLATION.—

“(A) CALCULATION.—If legislation is enacted into law that contains a provision that is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) or 252(e), OMB shall estimate the amount the debt held by the public will change as a result of the provision's effect on the level of total outlays and receipts excluding the impact on outlays and receipts of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

“(B) BASELINE LEVELS.—OMB shall calculate the changes in subparagraph (A) relative to baseline levels for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2010 using current estimates.

“(C) ESTIMATE.—OMB shall include the estimate required by this paragraph in the report required under section 251(a)(7) or section 252(d), as the case may be.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT.—After January 1 and no later than May 1 of each calendar year beginning with calendar year 2000—

“(A) with respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3), the Secretary shall add the amounts calculated under paragraph (1)(A) for the current year included in the report referenced in paragraph (1)(C) to—

“(i) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that begins on May 1 of that calendar year; and

“(ii) each subsequent limit; and

“(B) with respect to the periods described in subsections (a)(4), (a)(5), and (a)(6), the Secretary shall add the amounts calculated under paragraph (1)(A) for the current year included in the report referenced in paragraph (1)(C) to—

“(i) the limit set forth in subsection (a) for the period of years that includes May 1 of that calendar year; and

“(ii) each subsequent limit.

“(3) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary shall not make the adjustments pursuant to this section if the adjustments for the current year

are less than the on-budget surplus for the year before the current year.

“(d) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WAR.—

“(1) SUSPENSION OF STATUTORY LIMIT ON DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—

“(A) LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH.—If the most recent of the Department of Commerce's advance, preliminary, or final reports of actual real economic growth indicate that the rate of real economic growth for each of the most recently reported quarter and the immediately preceding quarter is less than 1 percent, the limit on the debt held by the public established in this section is suspended.

“(B) WAR.—If a declaration of war is in effect, the limit on the debt held by the public established in this section is suspended.

“(2) RESTORATION OF STATUTORY LIMIT ON DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—

“(A) RESTORATION OF LIMIT.—The statutory limit on debt held by the public shall be restored on May 1 following the quarter in which the level of real Gross Domestic Product in the final report from the Department of Commerce is equal to or is higher than the level of real Gross Domestic Product in the quarter preceding the first two quarters that caused the suspension of the pursuant to paragraph (1).

“(B) ADJUSTMENT.—

“(i) CALCULATION.—The Secretary shall take level of the debt held by the public on October 1 of the year preceding the date referenced in subparagraph (A) and subtract the limit in subsection (a) for the period of years that includes the date referenced in subparagraph (A).

“(ii) ADJUSTMENT.—The Secretary shall add the amount calculated under clause (i) to—

“(I) the limit in subsection (a) for the period of fiscal years that includes the date referenced in subparagraph (A); and

“(II) each subsequent limit.

“(e) ADJUSTMENT TO THE LIMIT FOR SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM PROVISIONS THAT AFFECT ON-BUDGET LEVELS.—

“(1) ESTIMATE OF LEGISLATION.—

“(A) CALCULATION.—If social security reform legislation is enacted, OMB shall estimate the amount the debt held by the public will change as a result of the legislation's effect on the level of total outlays and receipts excluding the impact on outlays and receipts of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

“(B) BASELINE LEVELS.—OMB shall calculate the changes in subparagraph (A) relative to baseline levels for each fiscal year through fiscal year 2010 using current estimates.

“(C) ESTIMATE.—OMB shall include the estimate required by this paragraph in the report required under section 252(d) for social security reform legislation.

“(2) ADJUSTMENT TO LIMIT ON THE DEBT HELD BY THE PUBLIC.—If social security reform legislation is enacted, the Secretary shall adjust the limit on the debt held by the public for each period of fiscal years by the amounts determined under paragraph (1)(A) for the relevant fiscal years included in the report referenced in paragraph (1)(C).

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(2) SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM LEGISLATION.—The term ‘social security reform legislation’ means a bill or joint resolution that is enacted into law and includes a provision stating the following:

“() SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM LEGISLATION.—For the purposes of the Social Security Surplus Preservation and Debt Reduction Act, this Act constitutes social security reform legislation.”

This paragraph shall apply only to the first bill or joint resolution enacted into law as described in this paragraph.

“(3) SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM PROVISIONS.—The term ‘social security reform provisions’ means a provision or provisions identified in social security reform legislation stating the following:

“() SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM PROVISIONS.—For the purposes of the Social Security Surplus Preservation and Debt Reduction Act, _____ of this Act constitutes or constitute social security reform provisions.’, with a list of specific provisions in that bill or joint resolution specified in the blank space.”.

SEC. 205. PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.

Section 1105(f) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “in a manner consistent” and inserting “in compliance”.

SEC. 206. SUNSET.

This title and the amendments made by this title shall expire on April 30, 2010.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Wednesday, April 28, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. in Room SR-301 Russell Senate Office Building, to receive testimony on the operations of the Architect of the Capitol.

For further information concerning this meeting, please contact Tamara Somerville at the Rules Committee on 4-6352.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 28, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct an Oversight Hearing on Bureau of Indian Affairs Capacity and Mission. The hearing will be held in Room 485, Russell Senate Building.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 21, 1999. The purpose of this meeting will be to review the USDA Office of the Inspector General's report on crop insurance reform.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 21, for purposes of conducting a full committee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to receive testimony on whether the United States has the natural gas sup-

ply and infrastructure necessary to meet projected demand.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 1999 at 10 a.m. to hold a markup.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 21, 1999 at 2 p.m. to hold a hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent on behalf of the Governmental Affairs Committee to meet on April 21, 1999, at 9:30 a.m. for a hearing on S. 746, the Regulatory Improvement Act of 1999.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 21, 1999 at 10 a.m. in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building to hold a hearing on: “Privacy in the Digital Age: Discussion of Issues Surrounding the Internet.”

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 21, 1999 at 3 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FOREST AND PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Forests & Public Land Management of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 21, for purposes of conducting a hearing Subcommittee on Forests & Public Lands Management hearing which is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. The purpose of this oversight hearing is to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding signed by multiple agencies regarding the Lewis and Clark bicentennial celebration.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sub-

committee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 A.M. on Wednesday, April 21, 1999, in open session, to review the readiness of the United States Navy and Marines operating forces.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 21, 1999, at 2 p.m. on the technology administration FY/2000 Budget.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEA POWER

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 21, 1999, at 2:30 p.m., in open session, to receive testimony on ship acquisition programs and policy.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, FEDERALISM AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism and Property Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to hold an executive business meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 21, 1999, at 2 p.m., in room 226 of the Senate Dirksen Office Building.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

GRASSLEY-TORRICELLI HEALTH CARE BANKRUPTCY BILL

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, it is an unfortunate result of today's modern health care system that many health care providers face serious financial difficulties. Increasingly, these health care providers are filing for the protection of the bankruptcy system. This reality was demonstrated recently in New Jersey where the parent company of the HIP Health Care Plan went bankrupt, leaving the plan's 194,000 subscribers in health care limbo.

The bankruptcy system, for all of the benefits it provides to debtors, creditors and the public, does little to protect patients of insolvent health care providers. These patients have no choice when their provider files for bankruptcy, they are, quite literally, innocent victims. In some cases such as the HIP HMO in New Jersey, state insurance commissioners have stepped in to manage failing providers. However, such steps will not always be possible,