

an illness in a family, a medical bill, the worker no longer has a job and cannot pay the mortgage.

Under this piece of legislation, what would be the income that is calculated? Would it be the income of this family with the head of the household unemployed? No. Under this bill, in order to see whether this family could file under chapter 7, you would look over the past 6 months and average out the income all the months he or she was working. But they do not have a job.

Most of the people file for chapter 7 because of a major medical bill. It is 50 percent. Only about 3 percent game this system.

Now we have a piece of legislation that does not ask the credit card companies to be accountable, does not do anything about their egregious practices, targets the most vulnerable people, and has very little balance. This piece of legislation should be defeated. That is why the President is opposed to it. That is why labor, civil rights, women, children, consumer organizations, all oppose this piece of legislation. I say to my colleagues, it is too harsh. It is without balance. I know there is a powerful economic constituency behind it, but I hope you will vote against it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate all the Senators who have been working on this issue and, in particular, the chairman who is standing here, Senator GRASSLEY, and has been here many times.

Today, in an extended session, we will finally reform the bankruptcy laws of America. They are very important because credit in America, be it from banks, from individual lenders, whatever, is really the heartbeat of what makes us tick and permits us to give our citizens material means. Without credit, things do not work in America.

Every now and then, we have to fix the bankruptcy laws so they work in behalf of not only the debtors but the creditors of America. That is what we are doing here. I think it will pass overwhelmingly.

My thanks to those who have worked so hard on it. I cannot claim to be one of them.

Again, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY has great persistence, and this is a tribute to him and a good start to his chairmanship of the Finance Committee.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The hour of 3:45 p.m. having arrived, the question is on agreeing to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2415. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FITZGERALD (when his name was called). Present.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 297 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Abraham	Dorgan	McCain
Allard	Enzi	McConnell
Ashcroft	Frist	Miller
Bayh	Gorton	Murkowski
Bennett	Graham	Nickles
Biden	Gramm	Robb
Bingaman	Grassley	Roberts
Bond	Gregg	Roth
Breaux	Hagel	Santorum
Brownback	Hatch	Sessions
Bryan	Helms	Shelby
Bunning	Hollings	Smith (NH)
Burns	Hutchinson	Smith (OR)
Byrd	Hutchison	Snowe
Campbell	Inhofe	Specter
Chafee, L.	Jeffords	Stevens
Cleland	Johnson	Thomas
Cochran	Kerrey	Thompson
Collins	Kyl	Thurmond
Conrad	Lincoln	Torricelli
Craig	Lott	Voinovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner
DeWine	Mack	

NAYS—28

Akaka	Inouye	Murray
Baucus	Kennedy	Reed
Boxer	Kerry	Reid
Daschle	Kohl	Rockefeller
Dodd	Lautenberg	Sarbanes
Durbin	Leahy	Schumer
Edwards	Levin	Wellstone
Feingold	Lieberman	Wyden
Feinstein	Mikulski	
Harkin	Moynihan	

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Fitzgerald

NOT VOTING—1

Landrieu

The conference report was agreed to. Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LOTT. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to thank all of the people who helped get this bill passed.

Senator HATCH, Senator SESSIONS, Senator TORRICELLI, and Senator BIDEN have all been very helpful. I thank them publicly for their hard work. I even want to thank Senator LEAHY. I also want to thank the staff who have been helpful: Makan Delrahim and Renee Augustine of Senator HATCH's staff; Ed Haden and Brad Harris of Senator SESSIONS's staff; Jennifer Leach of Senator TORRICELLI's staff; Jim Greene of Senator BIDEN's staff; Kolan Davis and John McMickle of my staff. I also want to thank Ed Pagan and Bruce Cohen of Senator LEAHY's staff.

I want to emphasize the great amount of work and expertise toward this successful effort of my Counsel, John McMickle. Without his hard work the bill would not have been the good product and compromise it is.

Mr. LEAHY. I congratulate Senator GRASSLEY, the Chairman of the Administrative Oversight Subcommittee and

my good friend Senator HATCH, the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee for their work on this measure. They doggedly pursued this passage here today. They showed leadership and we made some progress.

I only wish we could have completed our work on this bill and resolved the remaining important issues in a way that I could have supported and the President could sign.

— ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I know that Senators are interested in the schedule.

First, just very briefly, I want to recognize the achievement that has just taken place. A lot of hard work went into this bill over a long period of time by, of course, Senator GRASSLEY, Senator HATCH, Senator LEAHY, and Senator TORRICELLI. But it also took cooperation from Senator WELLSTONE. Whether he is for it or against it, I think again it showed that when we try we can get a final result which gets some 70 votes.

I command all of them.

This upcoming vote on the continuing resolution should be the last vote of the week. It will be necessary to pass an additional continuing resolution on Friday. However, we are not aware of any request on the other side of the aisle for a rollcall vote.

Tomorrow's continuing resolution should carry us over until Monday or Tuesday, and we will make further announcements to update Members as to the schedule for next week.

During this time, we will be putting the finishing touches on the appropriations bills and a final determination on the Medicare adjustments.

We are working in a bipartisan way and in a bicameral way with the administration.

We hope to be able to finish the business for the year and for this Congress before the end of next week. It will take a lot more work, but we are making some progress in that direction.

— MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 127, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 127) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on passage of the joint resolution.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 298 Leg.]

YEAS—96

Abraham	Enzi	Mack
Akaka	Feingold	McCain
Allard	Feinstein	McConnell
Ashcroft	Fitzgerald	Mikulski
Baucus	Frist	Miller
Bayh	Gorton	Moynihan
Bennett	Graham	Murkowski
Biden	Gramm	Murray
Bingaman	Grams	Nickles
Bond	Grassley	Reed
Boxer	Gregg	Reid
Breaux	Hagel	Robb
Brownback	Harkin	Roberts
Bryan	Hatch	Rockefeller
Bunning	Helms	Roth
Burns	Hollings	Santorum
Byrd	Hutchinson	Sarbanes
Campbell	Hutchison	Schumer
Chafee, L.	Inhofe	Sessions
Cleland	Inouye	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Collins	Johnson	Smith (OR)
Conrad	Kennedy	Snowe
Craig	Kerry	Stevens
Crapo	Kerry	Thomas
Daschle	Kohl	Thompson
DeWine	Lautenberg	Thurmond
Dodd	Levin	Torricelli
Domenici	Lieberman	Voinovich
Dorgan	Lincoln	Warner
Durbin	Lott	Wellstone
Edwards	Lugar	Wyden

NAYS—1

Leahy

NOT VOTING—3

Kyl

Landrieu Specter

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 127) was passed.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

—

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I seek unanimous consent to have the members of my staff be allowed the privilege of the floor for the brief period of time that I make some remarks here related to my tenure in the Senate.

The staff members are: Adam Condo, David Carney, Meagan Vargas, Tom Glegola, Vance Poole, Bob Carey, Katja Bullock, Carrie Cabelka, Alex Hageli, Tyler White, Rachael Bohlander, Kevin Kolevar, Joe McMonigle, Katie Packer, Cesar Conda, Joe Davis, Margaret Murphy, Jessica Moore, Sue Wadel, Majida Dandy, Lillian Smith, Julie Teer, Jim Pitts, Michael Ivanenko, Chase Hutto, Stuart Anderson, Lee Lieberman Otis, and Randa Fahmy Hudome.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SERVICE IN THE SENATE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, it is rare in this Chamber for incumbent Senators who have lost on election day to still have the privilege of addressing the Senate again, at least in their capacity of finishing out their terms. For me, if there is a silver lining behind this extended session of which we are a part, it is because it gives me a chance to thank people—friends, supporters, staff, colleagues, and others—who have made it possible for me, a grandson of immigrants, to serve and succeed here.

I begin today by making some comments and thanking people who have made a difference.

First, I thank my Senate colleagues with whom I have worked over the last 6 years. I especially express my gratitude for the majority leaders under whom I have served—Senator Bob Dole and Senator TRENT LOTT—for their confidence in me, for making me part of their circle of key advisers, for their support on both legislative and political matters and, most importantly, for their friendship.

I extend the same heartfelt thanks to the other members of our leadership teams over the last 6 years: To Senator DON NICKLES for whom I served as deputy whip for 4 years; to our conference chairman, THAD COCHRAN, who served when I first arrived here, and Senator CONNIE MACK; to our Senate campaign committee chairman, MITCH MCCONNELL, and the late Senator PAUL COVERDELL; to the Chairman of the Republican Policy Committee Senator LARRY CRAIG; to our new Conference Secretary Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, and so many others who have provided me with guidance and leadership during the time I have been here.

I also take special note of the people with whom I have served as a member of their committees: To our Commerce Committee chairman, JOHN MCCAIN, who has been a great friend and supporter and through whose help I have been able to pass significant legislation that came from our Commerce Committee agenda.

I thank our Judiciary Committee chairman, ORRIN HATCH, who helped me get on his committee my very first year here and whose support on that committee helped me to achieve a number of personal objectives with respect to legislative goals and who worked closely with me and his staff worked closely with my staff as we fought a number of very important battles in the Senate.

I thank my good friend Senator PETE DOMENICI, who chairs the Budget Com-

mittee on which I sat for 6 years. When I came to the Senate, I met with Senator DOMENICI. At the time, I was selected for that committee, and we talked about our goals and hopes that some day we might advance a balanced budget to complete and see the Nation balance its budget. Many people thought we would never achieve that in our lifetime, and yet 3 short years after I arrived on the committee, and under PETE DOMENICI's great leadership, that objective was realized.

I thank the chairman of the Small Business Committee, KIT BOND, whose friendship has helped me in legislative battles of recent years. I have only been on that committee 2 years, but his leadership also has been important to my success in the Chamber.

I extend my thanks to all of my colleagues. There are many close friends who are part of this Chamber, people with whom my family and I have become close in the last 6 years and others who have already departed the Chamber but with whom we remain close.

Senator CHUCK HAGEL from Nebraska is here with me today. I especially thank him for his great friendship and support. Senators JEFF SESSIONS, SUSAN COLLINS, JUDD GREGG and MIKE DEWINE have also done me the honor of helping me in my legislative efforts as well as being my friends over these last six years, and for that I want to thank them. And finally for my Republican colleagues, I want to thank all the other members of my freshman class, the folks with whom I came in 1995, and who helped so substantially change the direction of this country: Senator SANTORUM, Senator INHOFE, Senator THOMPSON, Senator FRIST, Senator ASHCROFT, Senator KYL, Senator SNOWE, Senator GRAMS, and as I mentioned before, Senator DEWINE.

I reach across the aisle and thank the many colleagues on the Democratic side with whom I have worked on so many bipartisan issues in the last 6 years:

To CARL LEVIN, our senior Senator from Michigan with whom I have worked very closely on many issues of importance to our State;

To TED KENNEDY, my ranking member on the Senate Immigration Subcommittee which I chaired. We have been very successful in passing a number of pieces of legislation through the bipartisan cooperation we have achieved in that subcommittee;

To JOE LIEBERMAN, who has been the lead cosponsor of my American Community Renewal Act, and other progrowth initiatives;

To RON WYDEN, my partner in so many high-technology initiatives;

To RUSS FEINGOLD, BOB GRAHAM, and others who have worked closely with me.

I also thank the many friends and supporters and mentors who have helped me to arrive in the Senate and in a lengthy political career in my State of Michigan. There are many