

in-kind assistance in lieu of per diem payments) may not be provided under this section to a grant recipient unless the facilities of the grant recipient meet the fire and safety requirements applicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association.

“(2) During the five-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act, paragraph (1) shall not apply to an entity that received a grant under section 3 before that date if the entity meets fire and safety requirements established by the Secretary.

“(3) From amounts available for purposes of this section pursuant to section 12, not less than \$5,000,000 shall be used only for grants to assist entities covered by paragraph (2) in meeting the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association.”.

SEC. 12. ASSISTANCE FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS.

(a) GRANT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a program to make technical assistance grants to nonprofit community-based groups with experience in providing assistance to homeless veterans in order to assist such groups in applying for grants relating to addressing problems of homeless veterans.

(b) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006, \$750,000 to carry out the program under this section.

SEC. 13. EXTENSION OF HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAM.

Section 4111(d)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (C) and (D) and inserting the following:

“(C) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

“(D) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

“(E) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2004.

“(F) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2005.

“(G) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2006.”.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I urge the Senate to pass S. 739, the proposed “Heather French Henry Homeless Veterans Assistance Act of 2001,” a bill that enhances VA's efforts to combat homelessness among our Nation's veterans.

On July 19, 2001, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on S. 739 as originally introduced by my good friend and colleague on the Committee, Senator PAUL WELLSTONE. The Department of Veterans Affairs and homeless advocate shared their views on what could be done to help VA treat the unique problems faced by homeless veterans. Witnesses testified that homelessness remains a prevalent problem among veterans, with roughly one-third of the total homeless population consisting of veterans. Members of the Committee were told that more needs to be done to help these men and women get back on their feet.

I will highlight a couple of the provisions included in the bill and refer my colleagues to the report accompanying this legislation for more detail.

The pending measure contains many provisions seek to enhance programs that VA currently administers to homeless veterans, most notably the Grant and Per Diem Program. This program offers grants to nonprofit community-based organizations that serve homeless veterans. Specifically, the bill authorizes up to \$55 million a year in funding for the program.

In addition, the bill would link the daily per diem rates provided to these

community-based organizations for the care of homeless veterans to the rate already provided to state veterans homes for domiciliary care. This would increase the daily rate from \$19 to \$24, giving those who are truly combating homelessness the appropriate resources with which to work.

Another important aspect of this legislation is the establishment of an Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans within VA. This 12–15 member committee would evaluate and report directly to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on all matters related to homeless veterans. This ensures that there is always a voice for this segment of the veteran population at the highest level within VA.

With regard to the overall evaluation of homeless programs—often cited as one of the biggest impediments to properly serving the homeless—the pending legislation would encourage the continued support of at least one evaluation center within VA. Currently, VA's Northeast Program Evaluation Center in Connecticut conducts such research, and it's important to ensure that all research efforts receive needed resources to pursue valuable work.

Evaluation needs to be conducted so that VA policy makers and Members of Congress know what works and what does not. Therefore, the pending measure would require two annual reports to Congress from VA on the activities of both the health care and benefits-related aspects of their treatment of homeless veterans.

Yet another key aspect of the pending measure is the required establishment of at least five new Comprehensive Service Centers. These centers would be located in the metropolitan areas found by VA to have the greatest demand for homeless services. Existing centers, such as ones located in Brooklyn, NY, and Dallas, TX, provide the full spectrum of care for homeless veterans, including transitional housing and substance abuse treatment.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the namesake of this bill, Miss America 2000, Heather French Henry. Her focus on homeless veterans during her reign and subsequent to the end of her tenure as Miss America brought significant attention to this important issue. Ms. Henry's advocacy for homeless veterans is truly admirable.

It is my sincere hope this bill will give VA greater ability to treat homeless veterans, and thereby contribute toward eradicating this national share. I urge my colleagues on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, who have also been active on this issue, to work with Senator WELLSTONE, the other members of our Committee, and me, to help those who have sacrificed for our country and now need our help.

I ask unanimous consent that a summary of S. 739 be printed in the RECORD.

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

SUMMARY OF S. 739: THE HEATHER FRENCH HENRY HOMELESS VETERANS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

The Committee bill incorporates provisions from S. 739, as originally introduced. It seeks to enhance and provide additional support for VA programs that combat homelessness among veterans.

The following is a summary of key provisions in the Committee bill, S. 739:

Programmatic Expansions: Authorizes VA to spend up to \$55 million per year on the transitional housing Grant and Per Diem program. Requires VA to establish at least five new comprehensive service centers for homeless veterans in those metropolitan areas found to have the greatest need. Extends the Homeless Chronically Mentally Ill and Comprehensive Homeless Programs until December 31, 2006.

Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans: Establishes a Committee that will examine and report to the Secretary on various services provided to homeless veterans.

Interagency Council on the Homeless: Requires annual meetings of the Interagency Council on the Homeless, as the Council has yet to get underway.

Evaluation on Homeless Programs: Encourages the continued support of at least one evaluation center to monitor the effectiveness of VA's various homeless programs. Requires VA to report on both the benefits and health care aspects of combating homelessness.

Life Safety Code: Requires that real property of grantees under VA's homeless Grant and Per Diem program meet fire and safety requirements applicable under the Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association.

Technical Assistance Grants: Authorizes the Secretary to conduct a technical assistance grants program to assist nonprofit groups in applying for grants relating to addressing problems of homeless veterans. Provides \$750,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006 for these purposes.

Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program: Extends the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and authorizes \$50 million a year for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee amendment be agreed to.

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

The committee amendment was agreed to.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 739), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

TO PREVENT ELIMINATION OF CERTAIN REPORTS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 212, H.R. 1042.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1042) to prevent the elimination of certain reports.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 1042) was read the third time and passed.

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 207, S. 1202.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1202) to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) to extend the authorization of appropriations for the Office of Government Ethics through fiscal year 2006.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1202) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1202

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Office of Government Ethics Authorization Act of 2001".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 405 of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by striking "1997 through 1999" and inserting "2002 through 2006".

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2002

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 74, the continuing resolution just received from the House and at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 74) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read the third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 74) was read the third time and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak as in morning business for a period not to exceed 10 minutes.

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

THE ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, yesterday's action by the Senate to block the consideration of an economic stimulus package was unfortunate, untimely, and unnecessary. For the third time in 2 months, we missed an opportunity to bring desperately needed assistance to unemployed workers. We were also blocked from providing tax relief to businesses to encourage new investment, and we were not even permitted to consider a homeland security initiative to meet the safety needs of our homes and communities.

But the resumption of negotiations on an economic stimulus package between congressional leaders and the administration is a positive sign. I say "resumption of negotiations" because there were productive talks last month between administration officials and congressional leaders. These talks resulted in an agreement on the size of the stimulus package and consensus was beginning to build.

The Democratic and Republican leaders of the Budget Committee also agreed upon a set of guidelines to develop this legislation. They said it should be immediate, that it should provide a temporary stimulus. They also said it should focus on those who would be most likely to spend the money, and all that was left was to fill in the details.

Unfortunately, the sensible process was abandoned. The House of Representatives pushed through a tax bill that was not temporary, did not provide immediate stimulus, and did not put money into the hands of those most likely to spend it. The House bill was bloated well beyond the size of the package that had been agreed upon, and the permanent changes it would make to the Tax Code would return us to the days of deficit spending and high interest rates.

The bill passed by a slim margin on a partisan vote. The fact that the administration has endorsed this effort is a grave disappointment. Now that we are back at the negotiating table, it is time to return to the bipartisan Budget Committee principles. It should be stimulative, immediate, and temporary.

Nobody can doubt that our economy is in trouble. The employment rate jumped 5.4 percent in October; nearly 8 million workers are unemployed. We must rise above our differences and focus on the priorities that unite us.

Three things are of paramount importance. It is important that we get business growing again. There are a variety of good tax cut proposals for businesses on the table. They would cause immediate investment and growth without busting the budget. Identifying the best set of incentives should not be a difficult task. But it is also important that we invigorate consumer demand. Both sides of the aisle have proposed tax rebate checks to those Americans who did not receive a rebate earlier this year. We know that a \$300 rebate to low-income persons would create economic activity because this money will be spent to make ends meet. But it is also important to provide temporary assistance to those who have lost their jobs. As we have in previous recessions, Congress should extend unemployment benefits.

The claim that these benefits would be a disincentive to work is an insult to our workers. I have never met anyone who would rather receive a meager unemployment check than hold a job. But we need to provide unemployment benefits for a longer time than usual because the economy simply is not producing new jobs.

Republicans and Democrats agree that those who have lost their jobs should not also lose their health insurance. But there are many different ideas on the best way to provide health insurance to unemployed workers. Whether it is a tax credit or a subsidy, I am open to these ideas. The important thing is that we not add millions of workers to the ranks of the unemployed and uninsured.

We should also take care that our actions do not compound the fiscal woes of our State and local governments. Many States were already experiencing large budget deficits even before September 11. Since the attacks, there has been a sharp reduction in revenues. There has been an increased burden on essential Government services. If the Federal tax cuts we enact result in a reduction in State revenue, we must find a way to fill the gap for our States.

If we stay focused on our core priorities, we can come to an agreement. We can also be sure that we don't bust the budget in the long run.

Economists have warned us that if we abandon fiscal discipline, we will force long-term interest rates to rise. If we push up home mortgage rates, then any other stimulus we provide will be futile.

Keeping interest rates low is especially important in my State. Missouri has one of the highest rates of home ownership in the country. Seventy-four percent of Missourians own their own homes, and they are counting on us to act responsibly. They are counting on our national leaders to step forward.