

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, will the Senator from Florida yield?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, it was clearly my intention to regain the floor so I could yield to my friend from Oklahoma.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. INHOFE. Yes.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that we return to the Nelson amendment.

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

Mr. NELSON of Florida. I yield to the Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Florida for yielding.

Let me first of all say, to clarify the understanding that I have in listening to his presentation, that his request would not necessarily be binding unless the President were to include this as something which he would interpret as an emergency; that is, the funding that is requested by the Senator. Is that correct?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. The Senator is correct. If the President did not designate the situation in Africa as an emergency, the President would not be required to provide these funds and it would not affect the top line.

Mr. INHOFE. If the Senator will yield further, I can't quite see the Senator's map of the continent. My understanding is that most of that is in sub-Saharan Africa. Is that correct?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. The Senator is correct. It involves three countries in east Africa, six countries in west Africa, three countries in central Africa, and about seven countries in southern Africa.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, if the Senator would yield further, let me just make a comment. I perhaps have had maybe even a conflict of interest in this case. But that conflict has made me very sensitive to the plight they have in sub-Saharan Africa. As the Senator from Florida knows, I have been there many times. I am very familiar with that whole region. But in the case of Ethiopia, which seems to be one of the first areas the Senator is addressing, a drought is taking place there right now. In fact, I have and I will hold up a picture of a little girl we found during that drought. She was abandoned. She was 3 days old. We were able to get her back into good health. I am very proud to say that this little girl—Zegita Marie Rapert—happens to be my granddaughter. She is now officially adopted.

By the way, in case you are wondering why she is wearing a crown, that was her first birthday. She has three older brothers ages 4, 5, and 6. It is a pretty typical family. Anyone from

Ethiopia is considered royalty: Queen of Sheba—anyone from Ethiopia is royalty. So they gave her this crown for her first birthday.

I would suggest that there is no area that is having a more difficult time right now. I know there is a lot of competition for funds. But I think the way the junior Senator from Florida has structured this amendment, that would allow the administration to make some of these determinations and some of these priorities.

I strongly support the idea of giving some aid to that area because of the drought that has been unprecedented for about 12 years. Hopefully, this will happen, and it will become a reality for these people.

We do a lot of talking around here about poverty; we do a lot of talking about problems; but until you see some of the poverty and some of the effects of the drought that has taken place right now in the sub-Saharan, Africa, it is really one that we don't understand.

I yield the floor.

NATIONAL AMBER ALERT NETWORK ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. DOLE). Under the previous order, the clerk will report S. 121.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 121) to enhance the operation of the AMBER Alert communications network in order to facilitate the recovery of abducted children, to provide for enhanced notification on highways of alerts and information on such children, and for other purposes.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I have a parliamentary inquiry. I had asked for the yeas and nays, and there was determined to be a sufficient second.

Could you inform me, on the Nelson amendment, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been ordered on that amendment.

Mr. REID. Madam President, if I could ask the Chair to direct the Senator's attention to the Senator from Nevada, it is my understanding we have a vote scheduled for 5:15. There are 15 minutes of debate prior to that time. The two leaders are trying to figure out what votes are going to come next. We have a series of amendments that have been offered today. I ask that my friend from Florida withhold until the two leaders have determined the time for the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I rise in strong support of S. 121, the National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2003. Specifically, I congratulate and thank my colleagues who have worked so hard toward the passage of this needed legislation: Senators KAY BALEY HUTCHISON and DIANNE FEINSTEIN.

Both of them are deserving of the credit for this bill. I am very proud to align myself with both of them.

Senator HUTCHISON has been a great leader in this area, and I am very much appreciative of her. Also, Senator LEAHY and others have worked hard on this bill.

The horrific kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart in my home State of Utah is illustrative of a terrifying wave of recent child abductions that has swept our Nation. Clearly, there is a tremendous need for legislation to help communities fight these terrible crimes.

Without question, when it comes to child abductions, time is of the essence. We are all too aware that child abductors prey on the youngest, most innocent and vulnerable members of our society—often for the purpose of committing other serious violent crimes against them.

Too often, it is only a matter of hours before a kidnapper abuses, assaults or kills the child victim.

According to figures released by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, almost 75 percent of the murders that occur following child abductions happen within the first 3 hours.

AMBER Alert systems are critical to successful search and recovery efforts because they enable law enforcement authorities to galvanize entire communities to assist in the safe recovery of child victims.

We recently witnessed the success of the AMBER Alert system in California where the system was used to broadcast the disappearance of Nichole Timmons. After she was recognized, Nichole was safely recovered in the neighboring State of Nevada.

In another recent California case, the AMBER Alert system was used to broadcast the disappearances of Tamera Brooks and Jaqueline Marris. Just hours after their abduction, and minutes before their possible murder, the two young women were found.

My home State of Utah recently adopted a statewide alert program aimed at preventing child abduction called the Rachel Alert. The program was named after young Rachel Runyan who was kidnapped from behind her home in Sunset, UT, and later found murdered.

I know that law enforcement agencies are working closely with broadcasters and the public to develop AMBER Alert systems across our country. Despite these efforts, however, I believe a National AMBER Alert Coordinator in the Department of Justice is needed to assist States in developing effective alert plans that can be coordinated nationwide.

Fortunately, we already have the technology in place to do just that—the Emergency Broadcast System. For years, broadcasters have been cooperating with Government officials and reaching Americans across our country by issuing emergency alerts on our televisions and radios. We have all experienced an interruption in regular

programming so that a news breaking announcement can be made. With the addition of a National AMBER Alert Coordinator and continued cooperation between law enforcement officials and broadcasters, we can create an effective national AMBER Alert system.

Just now, I walked into the Senate Chamber with Ed Smart, who, as the country knows, has joined with his wife and family to launch one of the most brave, concerted, and vigilant efforts ever known to locate their precious daughter, Elizabeth.

On many occasions, Ed and Lois Smart have educated me about the need for enhanced efforts to combat child abduction, such as the National AMBER Alert Network Act.

This measure is overwhelmingly supported by the Smart family and all the parents who have firsthand experience with the uncertainty, pain, and trauma that exist while waiting for news about an abducted child.

We have no greater resource than our children, and we need to see to it that we do all we can to protect them from predators of all types.

So let us pass this legislation for Elizabeth Smart and Rachel Runyon and, indeed, for all children in our Nation.

Madam President, I yield the remainder of our time to the distinguished Senator from Texas, who deserves so much credit for being on top of this bill and bringing it to the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, how much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Five minutes forty-five seconds.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, Senator FEINSTEIN and I introduced this bill last session. Under the leadership of Senator LEAHY and Senator HATCH, it went through in a remarkably short amount of time. Everyone could see the need for this bill, something that could be done on a volunteer basis, but with that Coordinator in the Department of Justice, we could really make a difference when a child is abducted in this country.

Unfortunately, the bill died in the House. So we have introduced the bill again. And this time, once again, through the leadership of Senator HATCH and Senator LEAHY, it has gone through the committee in record time. I hope we can pass this bill and give the House plenty of time to also pass this legislation and send it to the President.

The President has asked for this bill. He knows we need legislation on the books to create this Coordinator and to help every abducted child have a chance to live.

A Department of Justice study shows that 75 percent of child homicides occur within 3 hours of abduction. AMBER Alerts have gone out within 17 minutes of an abduction. That means we are giving law enforcement personnel the help they need to find this

person who takes a child and wants to do harm to this child.

Forty-three abducted children have been recovered with the assistance of AMBER Alerts. We now have 85 regional AMBER Alerts in this country, up from 53 when we introduced the bill last summer.

People like Joann Donnellan are running the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and have provided the technical assistance to States and local governments to help us find these children quickly.

In fact, this bill is named for Amber Hagerman of Arlington, TX, who was abducted in 1996 and found murdered. Her death had such an impact on the community that it was determined that if we could get the word out and try to find someone who had taken a child, that it would help save these children.

In fact, we have found that AMBER Alerts have been so effective that an abductor who saw an AMBER Alert sign in California went to the side of the road and let the child out because he knew he was going to be caught and that he was in trouble. So it is very effective.

What we want to do is have a Coordinator in the Justice Department who a local law enforcement official can call and not have to make 10 calls to contiguous States. He or she can make that one call to the AMBER Alert Coordinator in the Justice Department. That person will then be able to put the word out in contiguous States, without having to go through different call lists and wasting time.

We know that time saves lives in AMBER Alerts. When a child is abducted, if we can save time, we can give that child the chance to not be harmed or horribly murdered, as we have seen in so many instances with child abductions.

It is hard for me to understand how someone could prey on a defenseless child. It is the worst nightmare a parent would have to hear, that her child or his child has been taken by a stranger and you don't know what has happened. I have met with the parents of Elizabeth Smart, the wonderful couple from Utah, who have lost their child to an abductor and still have not heard from her. The agony they must go through every day is something no parent can imagine.

With this bill, we will put the coordinator in place. We will help set criteria for when an AMBER Alert would go out. We thank the National Association of Broadcasters and the local broadcasters associations because they voluntarily put the word out through radio and television in a community where this has occurred.

We want to make that go further and wider. We also want to try to help States with signage and help them know what works. For instance, the blinking signs on highways have been very effective.

This is a bill that will make a difference. We know that if we can find a

child within 24 hours, we have the best chance for them to be recovered safely.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN, my cosponsor of this bill, and thank again Senators HATCH and LEAHY for pushing this bill through the Judiciary Committee in record time because we know this bill needs to be on the books.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I am very pleased the Senate is again taking up and passing the AMBER Alert Network Act. I remember last year when Senator HUTCHISON would meet me coming in one door of the Senate and she would say: This bill is extremely important. Can we get it up and pass it.

And before I would get to the other door, Senator FEINSTEIN would grab me saying the same thing.

I went to the Judiciary Committee with it. I must say with the strong help and support of the then-ranking member, now chairman of the committee, Senator HATCH. In the course of just 1 week after we introduced this, we held a hearing on the AMBER Alert bill. We passed it in the Judiciary Committee, and we passed it in the full Senate. That is almost unheard of.

This is a case of what can happen in the Senate when people set aside political or partisan labels, work together and make sure something can pass.

It was unfortunate that the House did not pass it but now we will give them a chance. I am proud to join Senator HUTCHISON and Senator FEINSTEIN as an original cosponsor of the legislation.

Senator HUTCHISON said it very well, the reasons for the legislation, as did Senator HATCH. I commend those Senators for their leadership. Senator HUTCHISON and Senator FEINSTEIN have been absolutely dynamic in this case. Because of their support, they made it possible for Senator HATCH and I to get the unanimous support of the Judiciary Committee to move this bill.

It has been credited with recovering 43 children nationwide; 84 modified versions have been adopted in local, regional and Statewide locations. And 33 States have a Statewide plan.

My home State of Vermont is not yet one of them, but this bill would help towns and counties in States such as mine to build and maintain the AMBER Alert.

We spoke about how parents feel. I can imagine, when my children were growing up, the terrible fear that my wife and I would have had at the disappearance of any one of them. I don't know how a parent or grandparent gets through that. I don't know how members of the family get through it. The most vulnerable and most trusting part of our society is our children. Because they are the most vulnerable and the most trusting, we, not only as legislators but as parents, as family members, owe a particular duty to them.

I know President Bush is ready to sign this bill as soon as it is passed by

both bodies and goes to his desk. I urge all Senators to vote for it to send a very clear message to the other body that we support it. It is a bipartisan bill. They would then pass it. The President will sign it.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I am pleased to support the National Amber Alert Network Act of 2003. I urge the House of Representatives to take prompt action to pass this critical legislation and for the President to support it.

We have all heard the stories of parents who have found themselves trying to find a child who has been abducted, while fearing serious injury or even death. While local law enforcement officials work tirelessly to locate these children, the reality is that they are not always able to find a child in time without the help of the public.

What has made the difference around the country in many communities is the Amber program, a system designed to get critical information to the general public that might lead to locating a child and his or her abductor before the worst can happen.

The National Amber Alert Network Act of 2003 builds upon successful local programs and encourages other communities to develop Amber programs. The National Amber Alert Network Act of 2003 would enhance local programs by giving State and local communities help in apprehending an abductor who takes a child and then crosses State lines. In Wisconsin, there are three Amber programs in effect, in Madison, in La Crosse and in Green Bay. But, if a child is taken from Wisconsin and brought across State lines to another State, the local Amber programs have no uniform way to get critical information from one State to another.

The National Amber Alert Network Act of 2003 would allow communities the flexibility to develop Amber programs that are responsive to the needs of their areas and provide Federal assistance and coordination for local programs. The National Amber Alert Network Act would have the Department of Justice create a national coordinator to work on interstate issues, develop voluntary minimum standards for the issuance and dissemination of Amber alerts, and provide matching grants for the development and enhancement of local Amber alert plans.

The cost of implementing the National Amber Alert Network Act of 2003 is small when we consider the price every parent and community must pay when children are not protected. I am hopeful the National Amber Alert Network Act will help local programs continue to reunite families and apprehend their abductors.

(At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote on a bill that will save children's lives by expanding the existing AMBER Alert program nationwide.

I want to commend Senator KAY BALEY HUTCHISON for her continued leadership on this legislation. Her work on this bill has been extraordinary.

I also want to give a special thanks to Senator HATCH, Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and to Senator LEAHY, the Ranking Member, for putting the National Amber Alert Network Act on the fast track to the Senate Floor.

Senator HUTCHISON and I introduced the bill on January 9th, 2003. Now, just a couple of weeks later, we are voting on Senate passage. I am hopeful that this tidal wave of Senate support will carry over to the House and we soon will have a national AMBER Alert law.

So what are AMBER Alerts? AMBER Alerts are official bulletins transmitted over the airwaves to enlist the public's help in tracking down child abductors fleeing a crime scene.

AMBER Alerts are such powerful tools because they can be issued within minutes of an abduction and reach a wide public audience.

Statistics show that children in the most dangerous abduction cases have precious little time until their safety is compromised.

According to a study by the U.S. Department of Justice, 74 percent of children who were abducted, and later found murdered, are killed in the first hours after being taken.

Simply put, we need more AMBER Alerts because they may be the best tool law enforcement has to save kidnapped children facing imminent danger.

The National AMBER Alert Network Act has three key components.

First, the legislation would authorize \$20 million to the Department of Transportation and \$5 million to the Department of Justice in FY 2004 to provide grants for the development of AMBER Alert systems, electronic message boards, and training and education programs in states that do not have AMBER Alerts.

To date, AMBER Alert systems exist in 34 states and a total of 85 local, regional and state jurisdictions. This bill would help the expansion of AMBER Alerts to new jurisdictions.

Second, the bill would build upon the President's Executive Order by authorizing a national coordinator for AMBER Alerts in the Department of Justice to expand the network of AMBER Alert systems and to coordinate the issuance of region-wide AMBER Alerts.

Third, the bill provides a framework for the Department of Justice to establish minimum standards for the regional coordination of AMBER alerts. The Department of Justice, working with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and other private organizations with expertise in this area, would build upon the best standards currently in place.

The effectiveness of AMBER Alerts depends on the continued judicious use of the system so that the public does not grow to ignore the warnings.

Furthermore, it is the specific intent of this bill not to interfere with the operation of the 85 AMBER plans that are working today.

Participation in regional AMBER plans is voluntary, and any plan that wishes to go it alone may still do so.

I urge members to support this bill because AMBER Alerts have a proven track record.

Nationally, since 1996, the AMBER Alert has been credited with the safe return of 43 children to their families, including one case in which an abductor reportedly released the child after hearing the alert himself.

I would like to briefly describe two of these cases: the rescues of 10-year-old Nichole Timmons from Riverside and four-year-old Jessica Cortez from Los Angeles.

Last fall, Nichole Timmons and her mother Sharon attended a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Technology, Terrorism, and Government Information on the AMBER Alert program.

In moving testimony, Sharon described how Nichole was abducted from their Riverside home on August 20, 2002 and how an AMBER Alert brought her daughter back to her within hours of the abduction.

In Nichole's case, an Alert was issued not just in California, but in Nevada as well.

After learning about the Alert, a tribal police officer in Nevada spotted the truck of Nichole's abductor and stopped him within 24 hours of the abduction.

He was found with duct tape and a metal pipe. The AMBER Alert was the only reason that Nichole was able to return home to her mother—safe.

I can't think of any testimony in support of a bill more powerful than the sight of a mother sitting next to her daughter who she thought might be gone forever.

The second case I want to mention is that of Jessica Cortez. Jessica disappeared from Echo Park in Los Angeles on August 11, 2002.

But when Jessica's abductor took her to a clinic for medical care, receptionist Denise Leon recognized Jessica from the AMBER Alert and notified law enforcement.

Without the publicity generated by the Alert, Jessica could have been lost to her parents forever.

Through this legislation, we will extend to every corner of the nation a network of AMBER Alerts that will protect our children.

This program will increase the odds that an abducted child will return to his or her family safely.

But importantly, it will deter potential abductors from taking a child in the first place.

As Marc Klaas said at a hearing on the bill last fall, this legislation will "save kid's lives."●

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I yield back whatever time remains on this side.

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I yield back whatever time we have, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I announce that the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) is necessarily absent.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) would vote "Aye".

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

The result was announced—yeas 92, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 9 Leg.]

YEAS—92

Akaka	Dole	McCain
Alexander	Domenici	McConnell
Allard	Dorgan	Mikulski
Allen	Durbin	Miller
Baucus	Edwards	Murkowski
Bayh	Ensign	Murray
Bennett	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Fitzgerald	Nickles
Boxer	Frist	Pryor
Breaux	Graham (SC)	Reed
Bunning	Grassley	Reid
Burns	Gregg	Roberts
Byrd	Hagel	Rockefeller
Campbell	Hatch	Santorum
Cantwell	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Carper	Inhofe	Schumer
Chafee	Inouye	Sessions
Chambliss	Jeffords	Shelby
Clinton	Johnson	Smith
Cochran	Kennedy	Snowe
Coleman	Kerry	Specter
Collins	Kohl	Stabenow
Conrad	Kyl	Stevens
Cornyn	Landrieu	Sununu
Corzine	Lautenberg	Talent
Craig	Leahy	Thomas
Crapo	Levin	Voinovich
Dayton	Lieberman	Warner
DeWine	Lott	Wyden
Dodd	Lugar	

NOT VOTING—8

Bingaman	Feinstein	Hollings
Brownback	Graham (FL)	Lincoln
Daschle	Harkin	

The bill (S. 121) was passed, as follows:

S. 121

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 "National AMBER Alert Network Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL COORDINATION OF AMBER ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

(a) COORDINATION WITHIN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney General shall assign an officer of the Department of Justice to act as the national coordinator of the AMBER Alert communications network regarding abducted children. The officer so designated shall be known as the AMBER Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice.

(b) DUTIES.—In acting as the national coordinator of the AMBER Alert communications network, the Coordinator shall—

(1) seek to eliminate gaps in the network, including gaps in areas of interstate travel;

(2) work with States to encourage the development of additional elements (known as local AMBER plans) in the network;

(3) work with States to ensure appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network; and

(4) act as the nationwide point of contact for—

(A) the development of the network; and
(B) regional coordination of alerts on abducted children through the network.

(c) CONSULTATION WITH FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.—In carrying out duties under subsection (b), the Coordinator shall notify and consult with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation concerning each child abduction for which an alert is issued through the AMBER Alert communications network.

(d) COOPERATION.—The Coordinator shall cooperate with the Secretary of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission in carrying out activities under this section.

SEC. 3. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR ISSUANCE AND DISSEMINATION OF ALERTS THROUGH AMBER ALERT COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF MINIMUM STANDARDS.—Subject to subsection (b), the AMBER Alert Coordinator of the Department of Justice shall establish minimum standards for—

(1) the issuance of alerts through the AMBER Alert communications network; and
(2) the extent of the dissemination of alerts issued through the network.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—(1) The minimum standards established under subsection (a) shall be adoptable on a voluntary basis only.

(2) The minimum standards shall, to the maximum extent practicable (as determined by the Coordinator in consultation with State and local law enforcement agencies), provide that the dissemination of an alert through the AMBER Alert communications network be limited to the geographic areas most likely to facilitate the recovery of the abducted child concerned.

(3) In carrying out activities under subsection (a), the Coordinator may not interfere with the current system of voluntary coordination between local broadcasters and State and local law enforcement agencies for purposes of the AMBER Alert communications network.

(c) COOPERATION.—(1) The Coordinator shall cooperate with the Secretary of Transportation and the Federal Communications Commission in carrying out activities under this section.

(2) The Coordinator shall also cooperate with local broadcasters and State and local law enforcement agencies in establishing minimum standards under this section.

SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM FOR NOTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS ALONG HIGHWAYS FOR RECOVERY OF ABDUCTED CHILDREN.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Transportation shall carry out a program to provide grants to States for the development

or enhancement of notification or communications systems along highways for alerts and other information for the recovery of abducted children.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities funded by grants under the program under subsection (a) may include—

(1) the development or enhancement of electronic message boards along highways and the placement of additional signage along highways; and

(2) the development or enhancement of other means of disseminating along highways alerts and other information for the recovery of abducted children.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under the program under subsection (a) may not exceed 50 percent.

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT AMOUNTS ON GEOGRAPHIC BASIS.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure the distribution of grants under the program under subsection (a) on an equitable basis throughout the various regions of the United States.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall prescribe requirements, including application requirements, for grants under the program under subsection (a).

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1) There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Transportation \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 to carry out this section.

(2) Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

SEC. 5. GRANT PROGRAM FOR SUPPORT OF AMBER ALERT COMMUNICATIONS PLANS.

(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Attorney General shall carry out a program to provide grants to States for the development or enhancement of programs and activities for the support of AMBER Alert communications plans.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities funded by grants under the program under subsection (a) may include—

(1) the development and implementation of education and training programs, and associated materials, relating to AMBER Alert communications plans;

(2) the development and implementation of law enforcement programs, and associated equipment, relating to AMBER Alert communications plans; and

(3) such other activities as the Secretary considers appropriate for supporting the AMBER Alert communications program.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of any activities funded by a grant under the program under subsection (a) may not exceed 50 percent.

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT AMOUNTS ON GEOGRAPHIC BASIS.—The Attorney General shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure the distribution of grants under the program under subsection (a) on an equitable basis throughout the various regions of the United States.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—The Attorney General shall prescribe requirements, including application requirements, for grants under the program under subsection (a).

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1) There is authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Justice \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 to carry out this section.

(2) Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING
APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2003—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 27

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I ask for regular order on amendment No. 27, the LIHEAP amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right. The amendment is now pending.

Mr. STEVENS. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. STEVENS. For the information of the Senate, this is the LIHEAP amendment. The statements concerning the amendment will be after—

Mr. REED. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 1 minute for myself and Senator COLLINS to explain the amendment.

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, that would be in order. I have no problem with that. I ask for 1 minute on each side to explain this amendment.

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

Mr. REED. Madam President, this amendment would direct the President to release \$300 billion for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. It will be offset by using unexpended emergency LIHEAP funds which were already appropriated in the 2001 Supplemental Appropriations Act. Today, as the temperatures freeze, people throughout the country—people in the Northeast, the Midwest, many parts of the country—are freezing. This includes low-income seniors. With rising oil prices, a declining economy, and cold temperatures, it is the “perfect storm” for those people. We can help them with this amendment.

The amendment will also provide assistance to address the scorching heats of summer in other parts of the country. I urge passing.

I yield the remaining time to my colleague Senator COLLINS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, when I left Maine earlier today, the forecast was for temperatures with a wind chill of 40 below zero tonight. We are facing a “perfect storm” of exceedingly cold winter weather, high energy prices, and a difficult economy.

This amendment is a modest amendment with very little budget impact. But it is an amendment that will make a real difference in the lives of low-income families in Maine and States across the Nation.

No one should have to choose between being warm in the winter, buying prescription drugs, or buying the food they need to remain healthy. This amendment will address the needs of thousands of low-income families across this Nation so that they will not be faced with those choices.

Madam President, I urge adoption of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. STEVENS. We are prepared to accept this amendment, but I think the sponsors wish a vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. REED.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL, I announce that the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) is necessarily absent.

Mr. REID, I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) would each vote “aye”.

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

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 10 Leg.]

YEAS—88

Akaka	Dodd	McCain
Alexander	Dole	McConnell
Allard	Domenici	Mikulski
Allen	Dorgan	Miller
Baucus	Durbin	Murkowski
Bayh	Edwards	Murray
Bennett	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Fitzgerald	Pryor
Boxer	Frist	Reed
Breaux	Graham (SC)	Reid
Bunning	Grassley	Roberts
Burns	Gregg	Rockefeller
Byrd	Hagel	Santorum
Campbell	Hatch	Sarbanes
Cantwell	Hutchison	Schumer
Carper	Inhofe	Shelby
Chafee	Inouye	Smith
Chambliss	Jeffords	Snowe
Clinton	Johnson	Specter
Cochran	Kennedy	Stabenow
Coleman	Kerry	Stevens
Collins	Kohl	Sununu
Conrad	Landrieu	Talent
Cornyn	Lautenberg	Thomas
Corzine	Leahy	Voinovich
Craig	Levin	Warner
Crapo	Lieberman	Wyden
Dayton	Lott	
DeWine	Lugar	

NAYS—4

Ensign	Nickles
Kyl	Sessions

NOT VOTING—8

Bingaman	Feinstein	Hollings
Brownback	Graham (FL)	Lincoln
Daschle	Harkin	

The amendment (No. 27) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREE-
MENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, it was my hope that we could debate and vote on

the confirmation of the Ridge nomination during today's session. It is my understanding that the other side of the aisle will require approximately an hour and 40 minutes for debate. In a discussion a few minutes ago, we agreed that we would at least begin that debate tonight.

Shortly, I will be asking for unanimous consent to outline what the proposal is.

It is an important nomination. I believe all of us would like to address and vote on the nomination as soon as possible. We will be conducting that vote tomorrow.

I encourage our colleagues who have statements to make those tonight, if at all possible.

As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that following the stacked votes on Wednesday morning, the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 1, the nomination of Tom Ridge to be Secretary of Homeland Security. Further, I ask that the debate time be limited as follows: Senator DORGAN, 15 minutes; Senator BYRD, 15 minutes; Senator CARPER, 15 minutes; Senator FEINSTEIN, 10 minutes; Senator LAUTENBERG, 20 minutes; Senator LIEBERMAN, 15 minutes; Senator DASCHLE, 10 minutes; and Senator COLLINS to be in control of 1 hour and 40 minutes. I further ask unanimous consent that following the use or yielding back of the debate time the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination with no intervening action or debate; further, that following the vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, if I could, through the Chair, direct a question to the majority leader, it is my understanding that the majority leader is contemplating two votes in the morning.

Mr. FRIST. That is correct.

Mr. REID. And once that consent is done, it is my understanding we would have a couple votes, is that right, at 9:15 or 9:30 in the morning. Following that, this debate would take place, and we would vote on this matter prior to the normal party caucuses; is that right?

Mr. FRIST. That is correct. I understand that Senator CARPER may be willing to use his time tonight. I would encourage others to do so, once the unanimous consent request is agreed to. Shortly, we will enter into an agreement for two stacked votes for tomorrow morning at approximately 9:30. Following those votes, we will begin consideration of the Ridge nomination. I expect the vote will occur prior to the policy luncheons tomorrow afternoon, as outlined.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the second vote tomorrow morning be a 10-minute vote.