

supports this reading. Hamilton believed that the President, acting alone, would be the better choice for making nominations, as he would be less vulnerable to personal considerations and political negotiations than the Senate and more inclined, as the sole decision maker, to select nominees who would reflect well on the presidency. The Senate's role, by comparison, would be to act as a powerful check on "unfit" nominees by the President. As he put it, "[Senate confirmation] would be an excellent check upon a spirit of favoritism in the President, and would tend greatly to prevent the appointment of unfit characters from State prejudice, from family connection, from personal attachment, or from a view to popularity." This is a far cry from efforts we have seen over the past couple of years to inject ideology into the nominations process, and to force nominees to disclose their personal opinions on hot-button and divisive policy issues like abortion, gun control, and affirmation action.

Historically, deliberation by the Senate could be quite short, especially when compared to today's practice. Take, for example the 1862 nomination and confirmation of Samuel F. Miller to the U.S. Supreme Court. He was nominated, confirmed, and commissioned all on the same day! The Senate formally deliberated on his nomination for only 30 minutes before confirming him. His experience was not the exception. Confirmations on the same day, or within a few days, of the nomination were the norm well into the 20th century.

Contrast the nominations of Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owen. They were appointed 2 years ago and have yet to be afforded an up-or-down vote by the Senate. Mr. Estrada has now endured six cloture votes more than 3 months after debate on his nomination began. Justice Owen's nomination has been subjected to two cloture votes. Clearly, this is a far cry from the role for the Senate that the Framers contemplated. What was enumerated in the Constitution as advice and consent has in practice evolved to negotiation and cooperation in the best cases, and delay and obstruction in the worst cases—like that of Mr. Estrada and Justice Owen.

The Estrada and Owen nominations illustrate what is wrong with our current system of confirming nominees. Despite a bipartisan majority of Senators who stand ready to vote on these nominations, a vocal minority of Senators is precluding the Senate from exercising its advice and consent duty. This is tyranny of the minority, and it is unfair.

It is unfair to the nominee, who must put life on hold while hanging in endless limbo. It is unfair to the judiciary, our co-equal branch of Government, which needs its vacancies filled. It is unfair to our President, who has a justified expectation that the Senate will give his nominees an up-or-down vote.

And it is unfair to the majority of Senators who are prepared to vote on this nomination.

Many of my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, agree that the confirmation process is broken. Senator FEINSTEIN stated in a recent letter to the White House that the judicial confirmation process is "going in the wrong direction" and is potentially "spiral[ing] out of control." Senator SCHUMER has also indicated that his goal is to repair the "broken" judicial confirmation process and the "vicious cycle" of "delayed" Senate nominees.

The resolution submitted today sets forth a proposal that strikes a balanced solution by allowing for ample, yet not endless, debate on nominations. It provides that cloture may be filed only after a nomination has been pending before the Senate for a minimum of 12 hours. Sixty votes are required to invoke cloture on the first motion. After that, the number of required votes on successive cloture motions would decrease to 57, then to 54, then finally to a simple majority of Senators present and voting. A successive cloture motion cannot be filed until disposition of the prior cloture motion, thereby ensuring that a nomination cannot be confirmed by a simple majority vote until a minimum of 13 session days have elapsed.

This proposal has its roots in S. Res. 85, which was submitted by Senator MILLER on March 13 of this year. In addition, it is similar to a 1995 proposal of Senator HARKIN and Senator LIEBERMAN, which also provided for graduated vote requirements to invoke cloture. In support of their proposal, Senator HARKIN stated, "I may not agree with everything that Republicans are proposing, but they are in the majority and they ought to have the right to have us vote on the merits of what they propose." With regard to judicial nominations, I could not agree more.

Senator HARKIN also cited the research of a bipartisan group named "Action Not Gridlock," which commissioned a poll in the summer of 1994 showing that "80-percent of independents, 74-percent of Democrats, and 79-percent of Republicans said that when enough time was consumed in debate, that after debate a majority ought to be able to get the bill to the floor. That a majority ought to be able, at some point, to end the debate." I would be surprised if a similar poll today would yield substantially different results. I think that the American people understand the fundamental injustice of a minority's ability to block an up-or-down vote on nominations.

In support of their 1995 proposal, Senator LIEBERMAN stated, "Some say there is a danger of a tyranny of the majority. I say that there is a danger inherent in the current procedure of a tyranny of the minority over the majority, inconsistent with the intention of the Framers of the Constitution." Today, the "tyranny of the minority" to which Senator LIEBERMAN referred

over 8 years ago is in effect and wielding the filibuster in a most unjust manner against President Bush's exceptional nominees who have bipartisan support. I support today's resolution because it will dilute the tyrannical power of the filibusters against these nominees.

I have alluded to my frustrations with the current filibusters of President Bush's nominations. But the bottom line is this: many of us agree that we must try to repair the broken confirmation process. A bipartisan majority of Senators stands ready to vote on the two nominees who are currently being filibustered. This resolution is a reasonable accommodation that preserves the opportunity for extended debate, yet allows Senators to, eventually, do their duty and vote. I hope that my colleagues will support this resolution.

SENATE RESOLUTION 139—EXPRESSING THE THANKS OF THE SENATE TO THE PEOPLE OF QATAR FOR THEIR COOPERATION IN SUPPORTING UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES AND THE ARMED FORCES OF COALITION COUNTRIES DURING THE RECENT MILITARY ACTION IN IRAQ, AND WELCOMING HIS HIGHNESS SHEIKH HAMAD BIN KHALIFAH AL-THANI, EMIR OF THE STATE OF QATAR, TO THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SUNUNU submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 139

Whereas Qatar is a longstanding ally of the United States in the Middle East region;

Whereas the people of Qatar graciously hosted United States Armed Forces and the armed forces of coalition countries during the recent military action in Iraq;

Whereas the United States and Qatar will continue to build upon this military cooperation;

Whereas Qatar continues to grow in its economic and strategic defense cooperation with the United States and its allies;

Whereas the people of Qatar voted on April 29, 2003, on a referendum approving the establishment of their first Parliamentary Constitution;

Whereas years of democratic reform, including the establishment of a parliament based on universal suffrage, development of greater freedom of the press, and evolution of a free market have greatly strengthened the bonds between our two nations;

Whereas an unwavering commitment to the development of the education of its citizens reinforces Qatar's path toward democracy; and

Whereas Doha, the capital of Qatar, hosted in November of 2001 the Fourth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, where a number of agreements expanding our defense, commercial, and cultural ties were signed: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses thanks to the people of Qatar for their support of United States Armed Forces and the armed forces of coalition countries during the recent military action in Iraq;

(2) warmly welcomes His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifah Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, to the United States; and

(3) looks forward to broadening and deepening the friendship and cooperation between the United States and Qatar.

SENATE RESOLUTION 140—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 10, 2003, AS “NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK”

Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOND, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BIDEN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. ENZI, Mr. SMITH, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 140

Whereas community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers are non-profit, community owned and operated health providers and are vital to the Nation's communities;

Whereas there are more than 1,000 such health centers serving 13,000,000 people at more than 4,000 health delivery sites, in urban and rural communities in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands;

Whereas such health centers have provided cost-effective, high-quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved (including the working poor, the uninsured, and many high-risk and vulnerable populations), acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system by meeting escalating health needs and reducing health disparities;

Whereas these health centers provide care to 1 of every 5 low-income babies born in America, 1 of every 8 uninsured individuals, 1 of every 9 Medicaid beneficiaries, 1 of every 9 people of color, and 1 of every 10 rural Americans, and these Americans would otherwise lack access to health care;

Whereas these health centers and other innovative programs in primary and preventive care reach out to almost 750,000 homeless persons and nearly 850,000 farmworkers;

Whereas these health centers make health care responsive and cost-effective by integrating the delivery of primary care with aggressive outreach, patient education, translation, and enabling support services;

Whereas these health centers have increased the use of preventive health services such as immunizations, Pap smears, mammograms, and glaucoma screenings;

Whereas in communities served by these health centers, infant mortality rates have been reduced between 10 and 40 percent;

Whereas these health centers are built by community initiative;

Whereas Federal grants provide seed money that empowers communities to find partners and resources, and to recruit doctors and needed health professionals;

Whereas Federal grants on average contribute 25 percent of a health center's budget, with the remainder provided by State and local governments, Medicare, Medicaid, private contributions, private insurance, and patient fees;

Whereas these health centers are community oriented and patient focused;

Whereas these health centers tailor their services to fit the special needs and priorities of communities, and work together with schools, businesses, churches, community organizations, foundations, and State and local governments;

Whereas these health centers contribute to the health and well-being of their communities by keeping children healthy and in school, and helping adults remain productive and on the job;

Whereas these health centers engage citizen participation and provide jobs for 60,000 community residents; and

Whereas the designation of the week of August 10, 2003, as “National Health Center Week” would raise awareness of the health services provided by health centers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of August 10, 2003, as “National Health Center Week”; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I am introducing a resolution declaring the week of August 10, 2003, as a National Health Center Week dedicated to raising awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by 17 of my colleagues.

The resolution expresses the sense of Congress that these health centers contribute to the health and well-being of their communities by keeping children healthy and in school and helping adults remain productive and on the job.

The resolution also recognizes health centers for providing cost-effective, high-quality health care to the Nation's poor and medically underserved and by acting as a vital safety net in the Nation's health delivery system. These non-profit, community based centers are performing a vital service to our country's more vulnerable populations and they are to be commended for their efforts.

Health centers throughout the country have a 30-year history of success. Studies continue to show that the centers effectively and efficiently improve our Nation's health.

Over the past 2 years, the number of patients seen by community health centers in my state of Colorado has increased 20.8 percent and the number of visits provided has increased by 26 percent over the same period. Of the patients seen in Colorado in 2002, 48 percent had no health insurance, 26 percent were Medicaid recipients and 94 percent had family incomes less than \$36,200 a year for a family of four. Community health centers are truly America's healthcare safety net.

I believe it is important that we support and honor this nation-wide network of community based providers. That is why I urge my colleagues to act quickly on this legislation. Let's show our community health center network that we value its significant contribution to the health of our citizens by declaring the week of August 10, 2003, a National Health Center Week.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED & PROPOSED

SA 539. Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. TALENT, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 14, to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 539. Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. TALENT, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. BAUCUS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 14, to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of title V, add the following:

Subtitle —General Provisions Relating to Renewable Fuels

SEC. 5 1. RENEWABLE CONTENT OF GASOLINE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 211 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (o) as subsection (r); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (n) the following:

“(o) RENEWABLE FUEL PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(A) CELLULOSIC BIOMASS ETHANOL.—The term ‘cellulosic biomass ethanol’ means ethanol derived from any lignocellulosic or hemicellulosic matter that is available on a renewable or recurring basis, including—

“(i) dedicated energy crops and trees;

“(ii) wood and wood residues;

“(iii) plants;

“(iv) grasses;

“(v) agricultural residues;

“(vi) fibers;

“(vii) animal wastes and other waste materials; and

“(viii) municipal solid waste.

“(B) RENEWABLE FUEL.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘renewable fuel’ means motor vehicle fuel that—

“(I)(aa) is produced from grain, starch, oilseeds, or other biomass; or

“(bb) is natural gas produced from a biogas source, including a landfill, sewage waste treatment plant, feedlot, or other place where decaying organic material is found; and

“(II) is used to replace or reduce the quantity of fossil fuel present in a fuel mixture used to operate a motor vehicle.

“(ii) INCLUSION.—The term ‘renewable fuel’ includes—

“(I) cellulosic biomass ethanol; and

“(II) biodiesel (as defined in section 312(f) of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 13220(f))).

“(C) SMALL REFINERY.—The term ‘small refinery’ means a refinery for which the average aggregate daily crude oil throughput for a calendar year (as determined by dividing the aggregate throughput for the calendar year by the number of days in the calendar year) does not exceed 75,000 barrels.

“(2) RENEWABLE FUEL PROGRAM.—

“(A) REGULATIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall promulgate