

And I remind my colleagues that we will revisit the Higher Education Act next year, and I will fight to close this loophole fully and permanently. From coast to coast, the price of college education is soaring and parents and students are struggling. I will continue to fight for policies that put students above special interests and that protect taxpayers from these wasteful subsidies.

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

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

The bill (H.R. 5186) was read the third time and passed.

EXTENDING THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 5185, which is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5185) to temporarily extend programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965.

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

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

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

The bill (H.R. 5185) was read the third time and passed.

MAMMOGRAPHY QUALITY STANDARDS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 4555, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4555) to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to mammography quality standards.

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

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased that today the Senate will pass the Mammography Quality Standards Reauthorization Act of 2004, H.R. 4555. It is fitting that Congress is reauthorizing the Mammography Quality Standards Act, MQSA, during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This important bill is about saving lives. That is what the MQSA does. Accurate mam-

mograms detect breast cancer early, so women can get treatment and be survivors.

Mammography is not perfect, but it is the best screening tool we have now. I authored MQSA 12 years ago to improve the quality of mammograms so that they are safe and accurate. Before MQSA became law, there was an uneven and conflicting patchwork of standards for mammography in this country. There were no national quality standards for personnel or equipment. Image quality of mammograms and patient exposure to radiation levels varied widely. The quality of mammography equipment was poor. Physicians and technologists were poorly trained. Inspections were lacking.

MQSA set Federal safety and quality assurance standards for mammography facilities for: personnel, including doctors who interpret mammograms; equipment; and operating procedures. By creating national standards, Congress helped make mammograms a more reliable tool for detecting breast cancer. In 1998, Congress improved MQSA by giving information on test results directly to the women being tested, so no woman falls through the cracks because she never learns about a suspicious finding on her mammogram.

Now Congress is renewing MQSA through 2007 and laying the foundation to improve it even more in the future. Next year, the Institute of Medicine, IOM, and the General Accountability Office, GAO, will release studies examining a number of issues relating to MQSA and mammography. These issues include ways to improve physicians' interpretations of mammograms, ways to ensure that sufficient numbers of adequately trained personnel are recruited and retained at all levels, and access to mammography. I look forward to receiving these IOM and GAO recommendations and considering them in the next MQSA reauthorization.

This legislation that the Senate passed today was passed by the House of Representatives earlier this week and now heads to the President for his signature. I acknowledge and thank Congressman Dingell for his longstanding leadership and work on MQSA, and appreciate the work of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on this issue. I thank Senators Gregg and Kennedy for working with me to make sure that the Senate made MQSA a priority in this Congress and that we reauthorized it this year. I also want to acknowledge Senator Ensign for his important work on MQSA. Senator Ensign joined me in introducing our MQSA reauthorization bill, S. 1879, that passed the Senate earlier this year.

I thank the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, American Cancer Society, National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations, American College of Radiology Association, Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization,

and the National Breast Cancer Coalition for their input and advice during this reauthorization of MQSA.

This year about 216,000 cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed and over 40,000 women are expected to die of breast cancer in this country. MQSA saves lives. That is why it is so important that Congress is renewing and working to strengthen MQSA.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD without intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 4555) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, just to clarify, the bills we just passed are fairly significant pieces of legislation, the most significant of which is a bill which Senator KENNEDY and I and many people in this body have been working on.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from New Hampshire. He is right, we have just passed very important legislation, one of which is to reauthorize our mammogram quality standards. We have worked very hard on a bipartisan basis. I would like to thank him for his collegiality and cooperation. I see him smiling. Did I interrupt?

Mr. GREGG. I am happy to yield the floor to the Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. It was a little chaotic. I wanted to be quickly complimentary.

Mr. GREGG. I appreciate that.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Literally, we are going to ensure the safety and security of our mammograms. I just finished the Race for the Cure in Baltimore. I did more of a "walk for the cure" this morning. But when you look at the survivors and you know what early detection from mammograms has meant, we really have done a good job.

I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, let me thank the Senator from Maryland for her generous comments and her hard work, especially on the mammogram bill which we just passed. I was trying to highlight one of these pieces of legislation which essentially saves the taxpayers from paying out a \$100 million windfall to people who give loans to students. Those individuals were getting paid mostly by banks at 9.5 percent. This will roll that back to a reasonable interest rate of 4 percent. We will take those additional monies that have been saved and use them to waive the repayment requirements for teachers on their student loans for teachers who go into underserved areas and teach special needs kids. This is a

very important event and something that needed to be done, or we would have ended up with a windfall to these lenders and these individuals who go out and teach in these tough schools on difficult subject matters would have ended up with large student loans.

This is a very positive step. I thank the Senator from Massachusetts for his efforts in this area as the ranking member of the committee, and I thank the entire committee for its cooperation and appreciate the attention of the Senate.

I yield the floor.

INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION—Continued

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3989, 3994, AND 4037, AS MODIFIED, AND AMENDMENT NO. 4045 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3981, EN BLOC

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that the technical amendments are now approved on both sides. I send to the desk conforming modifications to three amendments that were previously agreed to, and a technical and conforming amendment, and ask unanimous consent that they be considered en bloc and agreed to en bloc.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modifications?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3989, AS MODIFIED

Strike section 101(b)(1) of the resolution and insert the following:

(1) Department of Homeland Security, except matters relating to—

(A) the Coast Guard, the Transportation Security Administration, or the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; and

(B) the following functions performed by any employee of the Department of Homeland Security—

(i) any customs revenue function including any function provided for in section 415 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296);

(ii) any commercial function or commercial operation of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection or Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, including matters relating to trade facilitation and trade regulation; or

(iii) any other function related to clause (i) or (ii) that was exercised by the United States Customs Service on the day before the effective date of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-296).

AMENDMENT NO. 3994, AS MODIFIED

In section 101(b)(1), strike “(B)” and redesignate “(C)”

Following section 101(b)(1)(A) insert the following:

(B)(i) the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services or (ii) the immigration functions of the U.S. Customs or Border Protection or the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or the Directorate of Border and Transportation Security; and”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4037, AS MODIFIED

In section 101(b)(1)(A), after “center” insert “, or the Secret Service”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4045 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3981

Page 2, line 10, strike “primarily”

Page 5, line 20 & 21, strike “Ranking Member” and insert “Vice Chairman”

Page 4, lines 9 through 13, strike.

At the end of section 101(b)(1) insert the following: “The jurisdiction of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs in this paragraph shall supersede the jurisdiction of any other committee of the Senate provided in the rules of the Senate.”

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

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

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. McCONNELL. We are down to the underlying McConnell-Reid amendment. I am unaware of any request for a rollcall vote.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am wondering—I made this statement earlier—if we could vitiate the necessity of having a cloture vote on this matter.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to vitiating the cloture vote?

Mr. McCain. I object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. McCain. Mr. President, I withdraw my objection.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3981, AS MODIFIED, AS AMENDED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there is no request that we vote on this.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada restates his unanimous consent. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3981, as modified and as amended, the McConnell-Reid substitute.

The amendment (No. 3981) was agreed to.

SECTION 101(B) AND 101(C)

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Section 101(b) contains the jurisdiction for the new Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Section 101(b)(1) refers to the new jurisdiction of the new committee. The rest of Section 101(b) and all of Section 101(c) describes the existing jurisdiction of the Governmental Affairs Committee and is not intended to make any changes to existing practice nor precedence regarding referrals on those issues with regard to other committees.

Mr. McCONNELL. I agree Section 101(b)(2) through Section 101(b)(13) and Section 101(c) makes no changes to the status quo regarding jurisdiction over those items.

AMENDMENT NO. 3981

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I appreciate the managers of the resolution adopting this amendment. It achieves the goals of an amendment filed by my distinguished colleague, the junior Senator from Texas, that I cosponsored. The language in the managers' amendment will make explicit that the shared jurisdiction over “government information” that is provided by rule 25 to the Judiciary Committee is not adversely affected by this resolution. I thank the Senator from Texas for his

leadership on this matter and the managers for working with us to clarify the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I said at the beginning of this debate that after reforming the executive branch's intelligence and homeland security agencies, we needed to put our own house in order. We can now say that after years of demanding that other institutions reorganize and improve their performance, we have demanded the same of ourselves. And we succeeded.

This is no small achievement for the Senate, the cooling saucer of American politics. We are very averse to change here.

We respect history in this institution. But today we avoided making the mistake of falling victim to it. Learning from our mistakes prior to 9/11, we have changed the way we do business. This is a great accomplishment.

We recognized the need to reform the way we conduct oversight over the most important issues of our day: intelligence and homeland security.

I want to thank my good friend, Senator REID. I have greatly enjoyed working with him, and have marveled at his prodigious talents in resolving particularly contentious conflicts.

We have accomplished this difficult task thanks in large part to his honest brokering and commitment to respecting the concerns of each and every Senator. He is fair-minded, and he is effective. I look forward to working with him more often.

Let me also take a minute to thank his capable staff. Rich Verma, Gregg Jaczko, and Gary Myrick, who worked on a truly bipartisan basis with my staff. Their expertise on these issues, and their patience with Harry and me, are truly commendable. They deserve a great deal of credit for managing the Working Group and cobbling together for us the many suggestions made by our Members.

I would also like to thank my staff: Kyle Simmons and Robert Karem. Both of these outstanding gentlemen were with me from the beginning of this process and we would not be at this point without them. I would also like to thank Mike Solo. He jumped right in to masterfully produce this product and also helped steer it to passage on the floor. Finally, my thanks to John Abegg and Brian Lewis for their counsel and able assistance.

I want to thank the members of the Congressional Oversight Working Group themselves for their many good ideas, and for their patience and willingness to work on a bipartisan basis to do something that is very difficult, but also very worthwhile.

Not every Senator will be happy with the result of the Senate working its will on this resolution.

Some Members will complain this reform goes *too far*. Others will complain it *does not go far enough*.

I believe we have struck an appropriate balance of reform that improves our ability to conduct oversight of intelligence and homeland security during a very serious time for our country.