

through Medicare, to prevent that hypertension causing a heart attack which otherwise would put you into the hospital—very expensive—or cause a stroke—very expensive. Now that can be preventative.

There is \$7 billion in improved physician payments which physicians deserve; \$25 billion in rural health improvements in order that our rural communities will be able to access the appropriate health care they need today; \$26 billion in State Medicaid relief and affordable health care through tax deductible health savings accounts. All of it is a first step, a start.

I wish to comment this has been accomplished in a bipartisan way. We need to continue working in a bipartisan way. I look forward to doing that. I look forward to working with both sides of the aisle to the benefit of America's seniors.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL LARD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. STEVENS pertaining to the introduction of S. 2280 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have a couple very brief statements to make; the first on the issue surrounding jobs, and the second on the issue of asbestos. Both of these issues are issues that we, on the floor of the Senate, have a real responsibility to address. I have specific suggestions as to how we might address both of these issues in the coming days and coming weeks.

#### JOB TRAINING

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, first, in terms of jobs and job training, this morning the President of the United States unveiled a proposal to double the number of Americans who would receive job training assistance from the Federal Government. The initiative reflects the President's commitment to help people get the training they need, they require to find new jobs and better jobs. It builds upon an earlier proposal by the President of the United States announced in his State of the Union Message in January to help community colleges train an additional 100,000 workers for industries that are creating jobs in this country, to bring these job training programs to people who need the education and the job training, and to use our community colleges, expanding on the tremendous resource they provide today.

As we all know, our economy is changing and changing fast. It is being transformed in so many ways. That is a great source of strength and adaptability, that flexibility to changing times both here in this country and around the world. Yet, at the same time, as we increasingly realize, this transformation, this adaptability, this flexibility in our economy—these changes in our economy—almost by definition result in a dislocation, a loss of jobs for some individual workers. That leaves us with a responsibility that we on the floor of the Senate must address, and we have addressed in part, but we have not fully addressed.

We must make a strong commitment to effective—I underscore that word "effective"—job training programs that will help American workers adapt to that changing economy, to give them the tools they need to fill those new jobs that are being created.

The Department of Labor, as we all know by now, announced last Friday that more than a half a million new jobs have thus far been created this year. That is good news. It is great news. We need to keep working to ensure that more jobs are created, and that workers are being trained to fill those new jobs that are being created. We need to respond now as well as in the months ahead.

We hear about the Workforce Investment Act, the WIA. We hear about it, and we hear that it is being obstructed, that we have acted in the Senate, that the House has acted, but it cannot make it to conference. Yes, this is one of a whole series of bills that we have worked on, that we have passed, and then we have this obstruction in getting to conference. Although my colleagues know, others who are listening may not: No matter how much work you do on the Senate floor, and the House floor, and you pass things, until you get it to conference and work through it and bring it back to the floor, it does not become law of the land. That is exactly where we are with this Workforce Investment Act.

People ask, what is the Workforce Investment Act? Right now, our Federal

Government sends about \$4 billion—actually, more than \$4 billion—a year to State governments and local governments through this Workforce Investment Act. However, last year, only 200,000 people—200,000 workers—received job training through these programs.

President Bush, as he outlined today, has set a goal to double the number of workers receiving job training through Workforce Investment Act programs. So we have fewer than 200,000 workers, and that would mean doubling it to 400,000 workers a year. He set out—and appropriately, I believe, and as reflected in our underlying bill—he wants to do this by maximizing the Federal dollars that are sent, by maximizing those Federal dollars directly to the workers themselves—getting it right down to the workers themselves, No. 1, and, No. 2, eliminating the bureaucracy, the overlap, the duplication, the overhead cost, where we know there are going to be additional savings. So we have a problem, but it is a problem that we know can be fixed.

Right now, the Federal Government spends \$23 billion a year on more than 30 job training programs, spread across nine different Departments and agencies.

The result of that is a confusing patchwork of programs that result in overlapping, inefficiencies, confusion, and chaos. This overlap of all of these programs results in bureaucratic red tape. You put all that together, it means fewer of the dollars that are allocated, that are spent actually get down to that individual worker or person who is to receive job training. I applaud the President for his focus on creating jobs, on training workers for jobs today and the future, but we in the Congress have to step up as well.

The fact is the Workforce Investment Act has expired. It needs to be reauthorized. Mr. ENZI, the Senator from Wyoming, who is chairman of the Subcommittee on Employment Safety and Training of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, has done a tremendous job in working with his colleagues in a bipartisan way to develop a bill. That bill has passed in the Senate. A companion bill has passed in the House. But because of objections from the other side of the aisle, we have been unable to go to conference, to pull those two bills together on this important JOBS legislation.

I do hope that the other side of the aisle will reconsider their objections to go to conference so that we indeed can get important legislation to the President and get workers back to work, get people back to work who may have lost their jobs with the appropriate training. That is our responsibility. The President has laid out the vision, laid out the agenda. We have written the legislation. We passed the legislation. Now it is time to marry that legislation with the House in conference.

Thus I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to reconsider and

allow us to go to conference. It is in our workers' best interest. Indeed, it is in America's best interest.

#### ASBESTOS LITIGATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this is a matter I have referred to on several occasions in the last several weeks. In fact, I referred to it last Friday; that matter being that we have an asbestos litigation crisis that is brewing today. It is a crisis we in Congress have a responsibility to fix. That is the assessment of the Supreme Court which on two occasions has in essence said the system is broken and Congress has the responsibility to fix it.

I rise to reiterate my goal to resolve this asbestos litigation crisis and also to announce that we will file a revised bill later this week so people and all of our colleagues will have the opportunity to look at what is in the bill and study what is in the bill itself. We have made tremendous progress toward enacting Chairman HATCH's Fairness in Asbestos Injury Resolution Act; we call it the FAIR Act. I, as majority leader, have made all of this a personal priority in the sense that I want the Senate to be able to address and resolve this issue.

Indeed, the magnitude of the asbestos litigation crisis is staggering. The torrent of asbestos litigation has wreaked havoc on victims, on American jobs, and indeed on our economy. The 600,000 claims that have been filed have already cost \$54 billion in settlements and judgments and litigation costs. And even with the billions already being spent, the asbestos tort system today has become nothing more than a litigation lottery. A few victims receive adequate compensation, but far more suffer long delays for unpredictable and indeed inequitable awards if they receive anything at all. It is a system today with only one real consistent winner, and that is the plaintiffs' trial lawyers, who, I should add, by the way, are taking home half of every dollar that is awarded to the victims.

The system is broken. We have the responsibility—in fact this body, the Congress, has the obligation and the responsibility—to fix this broken system.

As I mentioned, we will be introducing the revised bill later this week and giving Members substantial time to review the changes we are proposing that came out of the committee. We have made real progress toward closing the gaps that separated the insurers from the defendant companies, from organized labor. Chairman HATCH, the minority leader, Senators LEAHY, DODD, and SPECTER, and many others have invested heavily in reaching consensus on many of these issues.

I hope my colleagues will very carefully consider what is in this bill and engage in meaningful debate. Member after Member from both sides have voiced their agreement with that as-

essment by the Supreme Court, that the system is broken and Congress has the responsibility to fix it. With the help of my colleagues I am confident we can fix it. As I have outlined many times in the Senate, we have a process whereby we can consider that bill and bring it to the floor and indeed fix it.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. Morning business is closed.

#### JUMPSTART OUR BUSINESS STRENGTH (JOBS) ACT—Resumed

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask for the regular order with respect to S. 1637.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1637) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to comply with World Trade Organization rulings on the FSC/ETI benefit in a manner that preserves jobs and production activities in the United States, to reform and simplify the international taxation rules of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Harkin Amendment No. 2881, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to clarify provisions relating to overtime pay.

McConnell (for Frist) Amendment No. 2886, in the nature of a substitute.

Grassley Amendment No. 2898 (to the instructions (Amendment No. 2886) of the motion to recommit), relative to the effective date following enactment of the Act.

Grassley Amendment No. 2926 (to Amendment No. 2898), relative to the effective date following enactment of the Act.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the pending motion to recommit.

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

MOTION TO RECOMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3011

Mr. FRIST. I now move to recommit the bill with the instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment which is at the desk, and I send a motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] moves to recommit S. 1637 to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report back forthwith with the following amendment numbered 3011.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the pending motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the pending motion to Calendar No. 381, S. 1637.

Bill Frist, Charles Grassley, Gordon Smith, James Talent, John Ensign, John Cornyn, Wayne Allard, Olympia Snowe, Rick Santorum, Michael B. Enzi, Mike DeWine, Trent Lott, Christopher Bond, Thad Cochran, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Jim Bunning, Mitch McConnell.

AMENDMENT NO. 3012

Mr. FRIST. I now send a first-degree amendment to the instructions to the desk and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] proposes an amendment numbered 3012 to the instructions of the motion to recommit S. 1637 to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end of the instructions, insert the following:

SEC. . This act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3013 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3012

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a second-degree amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Tennessee [Mr. FRIST] proposes an amendment numbered 3013 to amendment No. 3012.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING CORPORAL THOMAS ROBERTS

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today with great sadness and tremendous gratitude to honor the life of a