

“(4) MONITORING AND ADJUSTMENT OF PERIOD REQUIRED TO BE UNINSURED.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) monitor the availability and retention of employer-sponsored health insurance coverage of dependent children; and

“(B) adjust the period determined under paragraph (1) as needed for the purpose of promoting the retention of private or employer-sponsored health insurance coverage of dependent children and timely access to health care services for such children.”.

(b) COST-SHARING FOR CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WITH HIGH FAMILY INCOME.—Section 2103(e)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397cc(e)(3)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) CHILDREN IN FAMILIES WITH HIGH FAMILY INCOME.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For children not described in subparagraph (A) whose family income exceeds 400 percent of the poverty line for a family of the size involved, subject to paragraphs (1)(B) and (2), the State shall impose a premium that is not less than the cost of providing child health assistance to children in such families, and deductibles, cost sharing, or similar charges shall be imposed under the State child health plan (without regard to a sliding scale based on income), except that the total annual aggregate cost-sharing with respect to all such children in a family under this title may not exceed 5 percent of such family's income for the year involved.

“(ii) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—The dollar amount specified in clause (i) shall be increased, beginning with fiscal year 2008, from year to year based on the percentage increase in the consumer price index for all urban consumers (all items; United States city average). Any dollar amount established under this clause that is not a multiple of \$100 shall be rounded to the nearest multiple of \$100.”.

(c) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS FOR STATES PROVIDING COVERAGE TO ALL UNINSURED CHILDREN IN THE STATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2104 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd) is amended by inserting after subsection (c) the following:

“(d) ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENTS FOR STATES PROVIDING COVERAGE TO ALL UNINSURED CHILDREN IN THE STATE.—

“(1) APPROPRIATION; TOTAL ALLOTMENT.—For the purpose of providing additional allotments to States to provide coverage of all uninsured children (as defined in section 2111(b)) in the State under the State child health plan, there is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated—

“(A) for fiscal years 2007, 2008, and 2009, \$3,000,000;

“(B) for fiscal year 2010, \$5,000,000,000; and

“(C) for fiscal year 2011, \$7,000,000,000.

“(2) STATE AND TERRITORIAL ALLOTMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the allotments provided under subsections (b) and (c), subject to subparagraph (B) and paragraphs (3) and (4), of the amount available for the additional allotments under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall allot to each State with a State child health plan that provides coverage of all uninsured children (as so defined) in the State approved under this title—

“(i) in the case of such a State other than a commonwealth or territory described in subsection (ii), the same proportion as the proportion of the State's allotment under subsection (b) (determined without regard to subsection (f)) to 98.95 percent of the total amount of the allotments under such section for such States eligible for an allotment under this subparagraph for such fiscal year; and

“(ii) in the case of a commonwealth or territory described in subsection (c)(3), the same proportion as the proportion of the commonwealth's or territory's allotment under subsection (c) (determined without regard to subsection (f)) to 1.05 percent of the total amount of the allotments under such section for commonwealths and territories eligible for an allotment under this subparagraph for such fiscal year.

“(B) MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—No allotment to a State for a fiscal year under this subsection shall be less than 50 percent of the amount of the allotment to the State determined under subsections (b) and (c) for the preceding fiscal year.

“(ii) PRO RATA REDUCTIONS.—The Secretary shall make such pro rata reductions to the allotments determined under this subsection as are necessary to comply with the requirements of clause (i).

“(C) AVAILABILITY AND REDISTRIBUTION OF UNUSED ALLOTMENTS.—In applying subsections (e) and (f) with respect to additional allotments made available under this subsection, the procedures established under such subsections shall ensure such additional allotments are only made available to States which have elected to provide coverage under section 2111.

“(3) USE OF ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENT.—Additional allotments provided under this subsection are not available for amounts expended before October 1, 2005. Such amounts are available for amounts expended on or after such date for child health assistance for uninsured children (as defined in section 2111(b)).

“(4) REQUIRING ELECTION TO PROVIDE COVERAGE.—No payments may be made to a State under this title from an allotment provided under this subsection unless the State has made an election to provide child health assistance for all uninsured children (as so defined) in the State, including such children whose family income exceeds 200 percent of the poverty line.”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2104 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397dd) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by inserting “subject to subsection (d),” after “under this section”;

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “and subsection (d)” after “Subject to paragraph (4)”; and

(C) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “subject to subsection (d),” after “for a fiscal year.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section take effect on October 1, 2006.

SA 2702. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4297, to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 201(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2006; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 19, strike lines 19 through 22 and insert the following:

SEC. 203. EXTENSION OF RESEARCH CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (B) of section 41(h)(1) (relating to termination), as amended by section 113 of this Act, is amended by striking “December 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2008”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subparagraph (D) of section 45C(b)(1) (relating to special rule), as amended by section 113 of this Act, is amended by striking “December 31, 2006” and inserting “December 31, 2008”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after December 31, 2005.

(b) EXPANSION OF CREDIT TO EXPENSES OF GENERAL COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CONSORTIA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 41 is amended—

(A) by striking “an energy research consortium” in subsections (a)(3) and (b)(3)(C)(i) and inserting “a research consortium”,

(B) by striking “energy” each place it appears in subsection (f)(6)(A),

(C) by inserting “or 501(c)(6)” after “section 501(c)(3)” in subsection (f)(6)(A)(i)(I), and

(D) by striking “ENERGY RESEARCH” in the heading for subsection (f)(6) and inserting “RESEARCH”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply to taxable years ending after December 31, 2005.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND POWER

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Water and Power of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 28 at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the Bureau of Reclamation's Reuse and Recycling Program, title XVI of P.L. 102-575.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Kellie Donnelly, 202-224-9360 or Shannon Ewan at 202-224-7555.

AUTHORITIES FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 10 a.m. on Women in Sports.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 10 a.m. for a hearing titled, “Hurricane Katrina: Managing the Crisis and Evacuating New Orleans.”

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized

to meet on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct an oversight hearing on Off-Reservation Gaming. The Process for Considering Gaming Applications lands eligible for gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Consolidation in the Energy Industry: Raising Prices at the Pump?" on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in Hart Senate Office Building room 226.

Witness list

Panel I: The Honorable Bill Kovacic, Commissioner and former General Counsel, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC; James Wells, Director, Natural Resources and Environment, United States Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC; The Honorable Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General, State of Connecticut, Hartford, CT; R. Preston McAfee, Stanley Johnson Professor of Business, Economics and Management, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA; Tyson Slocum, Acting Director, Energy Program, Public Citizen's, Washington, DC; Tim Hamilton, Founder and Executive Director, Automotive United Trades Organization, Seattle, WA.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "An Examination of the Death Penalty in the United States" on Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 1:30 p.m. in SD226.

Witness list

Panel I: Mrs. Ann Scott, Tulsa, OK; Ms. Vicki Schieber, Chevy Chase, MD.

Panel II: Dr. John McAdams, Professor of Political Science, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI; Mr. Stephen Bright, President and Counsel, Southern Center for Human Rights, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Paul Rubin, Professor of Economics, Emory University, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Jeffrey Fagan, Professor of Law and Public Health, Columbia University, New York, NY.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following fellows and interns with the Finance Committee staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the duration of the debate on the tax reconciliation bill:

Mary Baker, Robin Burgess, Tiffany Smith, Tom Louthan, Richard Litsey, Stuart Sirkin, Zachary Henderson, Lesley Meeker, Britt Sandler, and Lauren Shields.

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

RESTRICTING ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. Con. Res. 79, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 79) expressing the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains the position calling for the destruction of Israel.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 79) was agreed to, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 79

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that no United States assistance should be provided directly to the Palestinian Authority if any representative political party holding a majority of parliamentary seats within the Palestinian Authority maintains a position calling for the destruction of Israel.

DESIGNATING FEBRUARY 2006 AS "GO DIRECT MONTH"

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 363, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 363) designating February 2006 as "Go Direct Month."

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it's a privilege to join my colleague Senator GRASSLEY in submitting this important resolution commemorating February 2006 as Go Direct Month.

In 2004, the Treasury Department issued over 70,000 checks worth \$61 million that were illegally signed for. The Treasury receives approximately half a million phone calls each year from people having problems with paper checks.

Go Direct encourages Americans to use direct deposit for their Federal

checks, such as Social Security. Under direct deposit, the Federal Government transfers its payments directly to a person's bank account, eliminating the risk of lost or stolen checks. Since 1986, direct deposit has also saved the Federal Government \$5 billion in administrative costs—\$120 million a year for Social Security checks alone.

Now, the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve have launched Go Direct to encourage Americans to protect their Federal benefits and take more control of their money. Go Direct Month, promoted by the Federal Government and by State and local governments and the private sector as well, will inform as many citizens as possible about the advantages of direct deposit and help them adopt direct deposit for the future.

I urge my colleagues to approve this worthwhile resolution and to encourage their constituents to take advantage of this time-saving and problem-avoiding initiative.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 363) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 363

Whereas the Department of Treasury issued over 70,000 checks worth approximately \$61,000,000 that were illegally signed for in 2004;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury receives approximately 500,000 telephone calls each year regarding problems with paper checks;

Whereas the use of direct deposit has resulted in approximately \$5,000,000,000 in savings for the Federal Government since 1986;

Whereas 1 out of every 5 newly eligible Social Security recipients has yet to sign up for direct deposit;

Whereas the United States would generate approximately \$120,000,000 in annual savings if all federal beneficiaries used direct deposit;

Whereas the use of direct deposit is a more secure, reliable, and cost effective method of payment because the use of direct deposit—

(1) eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks;

(2) helps protect against fraud; and

(3) provides citizens of the United States with more control over their money;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Bank has launched "Go Direct", a national campaign organized to encourage citizens of the United States to use direct deposit for the receipt of Social Security and other Federal benefits; and

Whereas, by working with financial institutions, advocacy groups, and community organizations, the sponsors of "Go Direct" educate citizens of the United States about the advantages of using direct deposit and assist them during the enrollment process; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideas of "Go Direct";

(2) proclaims February 2006 as "Go Direct Month";