

genuine need to have an effective and appropriately aggressive Federal prosecutor in the District of Columbia and, because the responsibilities of the position for which he has been nominated are largely advisory in nature, we have decided to advocate his swift and immediate confirmation in order to facilitate his departure from the U.S. Attorney's office. In so doing, we hope that his replacement will prove to be better able to handle pending cases—particularly those involving assaults on law enforcement officers.

Justice is something that must be vigorously pursued and Mr. Wainstein is waffling. We feel that someone of his temperament is better suited to a less operational position and, for this reason, on behalf of the more than 324,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police, we urge his expeditious confirmation. I thank you both in advance for your consideration of our views on this matter. If I can be of any further help, please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco at my Washington office.

Sincerely,

CHUCK CANTERBURY,
National President.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship unanimously reported the President's nomination of Steven Preston to serve as Administrator for the Small Business Administration. I would like to thank Chair SNOWE and her staff for their work on this nomination.

Mr. Preston brings keen business sense and a wealth of management experience to an agency woefully in need of better management. From the disaster loan program to oversight of federal contracting, the SBA has failed small businesses under the current administration. Hurricane Katrina is now 10 months behind us, and still we are witnessing delays in getting loan money to the residents of the Gulf Coast. Deep budget cuts have bled the agency of key staff. Efforts to eliminate key programs like the Microloan program, PRIME and New Markets Venture Capital have undermined access to capital and business counseling for small businesses, especially the smallest of firms. As Mr. Preston stated many times throughout the nomination process, morale at the SBA is dangerously low. There is a vacuum of leadership into which Mr. Preston now steps, and there is much for him to do to reinvigorate this agency.

I am hopeful that Mr. Preston will prove to be an aggressive advocate for small business. His career and his actions demonstrate that he is not a political person, and I hope his instincts lead him to do the right thing rather than the political thing. With investment, commitment, and most of all, strong leadership, the SBA can make a real difference in people's lives.

I am also hopeful that as Administrator, Mr. Preston will fight for realistic budgets. The budget delivered to Congress by President Bush this past year had no basis in reality. The former SBA Administrator's reaction was to travel the country to support Administration proposals that often had little to do with the needs of small

businesses. Meanwhile, the SBA budget was being slashed. The SBA needs someone who will consider the impact of the budget on small businesses and disaster victims and will fight budgets that hurt these communities. The President is proposing to assess unprecedented administrative fees on small business loans, on top of the high fees that are already passed on to small businesses in this zero subsidy environment. He is also trying to balance the Federal budget on the backs of disaster victims by raising interest rates on disaster loans. These are not recipes for helping small business, and I hope Mr. Preston recognizes that.

The SBA also needs to be a more vigilant watchdog for small business contracting. The record of the last few years is appalling. Federal small business contracting numbers have been manipulated and overstated to score political points. The SBA's office dedicated to veterans contracting has been shut down. Implementation of the women's contracting program has been delayed for 6 years. The SBA IG reports and GAO reports make it clear: There is a pattern of neglect when it comes to SBA's oversight of federal contracting to ensure fair access for small firms. Report after report indicates that there needs to be more staff to oversee federal contracting, and the agency continues to deny our efforts to get more accurate small business contracting numbers. This is a serious problem, and through this nomination process, Mr. Preston has been made well aware that I and my fellow committee members expect it to be addressed.

Above all, I am tired of hearing the administration's claim that it is doing "more with less." At some point, this catch phrase gives way to the reality that an agency can no longer even fulfill its mandate with any less. It is my belief that we have reached that point. Small Business Development Centers have been forced to reduce services. Women's Business Centers are on the verge of shutting down. Lending to minorities has been generally flat or has gone down, particularly dollars loaned to African Americans and women. This agency has a unique role to play in fostering entrepreneurship in underserved communities. It is clear from his history of charitable involvement that Mr. Preston understands the needs of these underserved communities, and I hope that this spirit is evident in his work at the SBA on behalf of underserved and disadvantaged businesses.

I have served on the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship for 21 years, as ranking member or Chairman since 1997, and I have worked with a number of SBA Administrators. Too often, a nominee comes before the Committee and says all the right things to get confirmed. My hope for Mr. Preston is that he will not simply talk the talk, but that he will walk the walk. By living up to his promises, I think Mr. Preston will see that he and

Congress can work side by side to help small businesses across the Nation.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I welcome the confirmation of Steven Preston to be U.S. Small Business Administration, BSA Administrator. I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Preston a few weeks ago, and I believe that he has the management experience to take on the many challenges facing the Small Business Administration. More importantly, I was impressed with his passion to serve and to take on this particularly challenging position.

For too long this agency, which serves the backbone of our Nation's economy, has been a second-class citizen in this administration. The SBA enjoyed Cabinet-level status under President Clinton but has since been downgraded to a second-tier agency. The SBA's budget has been cut by nearly 40 percent since 2001—more than any other Federal agency. This sends the wrong signal to small businesses, especially our small businesses down in the gulf coast. It tells them that they are not worth the investment, that small businesses are not a national priority.

We need a SBA Administrator who is a "work horse" not a "show horse." Washington has plenty of show horses, but they should not be running Federal agencies. We have seen that in the gulf, and we don't want to see it again. I am willing to work with Mr. Preston and with my colleagues on the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to help the SBA be more effective and responsive in good times and bad.

One of the first challenges Mr. Preston will face is to ensure that the SBA is ready for this year's hurricane season. Experts forecast that this will be a very active season, and the SBA has to be ready. Last year, we had the sense that the agency was acting by the seat of their pants. Under the circumstances, that is not so surprising. The country had never seen anything like Katrina before. But now Mr. Preston and the SBA have the opportunity to take the lessons of last year to better prepared for this year.

The emergency supplemental appropriations bill we most recently passed contains language that I sponsored to require SBA to submit a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan to Congress by July 15. SBA did not have one in place for Katrina, so my colleagues and I want to ensure that they are more prepared for hurricane season this year and future disasters as well. I look forward to receiving this report next week.

I mentioned that Mr. Preston's management experience will serve him well as he works to make the SBA a more efficient and responsive agency. Congress also needs to give SBA the tools to allow it to improve. After Katrina, small businesses in Louisiana had nothing but complaints about SBA's service in the Disaster Loan Program.

They needed access to immediate capital to pay employees, restore inventory, and make quick repairs, but SBA said it was not in the business of short-term recovery. That is why the upcoming SBJ reauthorization is going to be so important. This will be an opportunity to not only reauthorize funding for the SBA capital and technical assistance programs but also to make the SBA more responsive and efficient for future disasters.

I intend to introduce legislation that I would like to see included in the reauthorization bill to give the SBA more tools for handling future disasters. We need to give SBA expedited disaster loan authority for businesses in good standing with the SBA. We need to authorize short-term bridge loan and grant authority, so that in a major disaster, businesses can get help earlier, rather than later. SBA needs a full-time planning staff, and we must encourage the agency to better utilize its district offices. In the aftermath of Katrina, we need a strong SBA more than ever. In taking the helm, Mr. Preston will be a pivotal figure in the recovery of the gulf coast as well as to the economic growth of small businesses nationwide.

As Administrator, he will be inheriting an agency that by many accounts has an unfortunate legacy of mismanagement, inefficiency, poor employee morale, and soured relations with Congress. The management challenges are huge, but the need to do it right is greater. I believe that in Steven Preston, we have a nominee who can use his corporate management and finance experience to fix SBA. I invite him to not be afraid to take on the old ways of doing things at SBA. If he runs into roadblocks, come talk to us on the Senate Small Business Committee. If he needs a legislative change to move this agency forward, come to us. We want this agency to work. Our small businesses need this agency to work and to work well.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the nomination of Drue Pearce to be the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects be discharged from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and be referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will return to legislative session.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 440, the adjournment resolution; provided 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 (H. Con. Res. 440) was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 440

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, June 29, 2006, or Friday, June 30, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on Thursday, June 29, 2006, Friday, June 30, 2006, or Saturday, July 1, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, July 10, 2006, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN BILLS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment of the Senate, the majority whip and both Senators from Virginia be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the upcoming recess or adjournment of the Senate, the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the majority and minority leaders be authorized to make appointments to commissions, committees, boards, conferences, or interparliamentary conferences authorized by law, by concurrent action of the two Houses, or by order of the Senate.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3590

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the bill for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3590) to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to delay the effective date of the amendments made by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requiring documentation evidencing citizenship or nationality as a condition for receipt of medical assistance under the Medicaid program.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING AND BINDING OF SUPPLEMENT TO AND REVISED EDITION OF SENATE PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S.J. Res. 40 that was introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

S. J. RES. 40

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. PRINTING OF SUPPLEMENT TO, AND REVISED EDITION OF, SENATE PROCEDURE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each of the following documents shall be prepared under the supervision of Alan Frumin, Parliamentarian and Parliamentarian Emeritus of the Senate, and shall be printed and bound as a Senate document:

(1) A supplement to "Riddick's Senate Procedure", to be styled "Frumin's Supplement to Riddick's Senate Procedure".

(2) A revised edition of "Riddick's Senate Procedure", to be styled "Frumin's Senate Procedure".

(b) COPIES.—One thousand five hundred copies of each document described in subsection (a) shall be printed for distribution to Senators and for the use of the Senate.

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

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

The joint resolution (S.J. Res. 40) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LOUIS BRAILLE BICENTENNIAL—BRAILLE LITERACY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the