

This bill will save most families in a newly zoned high-risk residential area more than \$500 each year, or roughly \$40 each month.

The goal of the 5-year reprieve is to give the responsible agencies time to bring the levees up to standard.

When the levees are strong again, the homeowners will no longer be required to purchase flood insurance. The financial burden would be lifted.

This grace period helps those who need it most and softens the harsh and expensive consequences that accompany FEMA's Map Modification process.

Additionally, the 5-year limit allows this legislation to accomplish these objectives in a manner that is fiscally responsible.

Our colleagues in the House recently passed legislation H.R. 3121, that seeks to ensure the continued viability of the National Flood Insurance Program.

My colleague in the House of Representatives, Congressman DENNIS CARDOZA, authored an amendment similar to this legislation, which passed by voice vote and is now included in the House's proposed changes.

The House bill encourages broader participation, increases financial accountability, and eliminates unnecessary rate subsidies.

Additionally, the bill makes the updating and modernization of flood maps a priority, and requires a thorough review of the Nation's flood protection systems.

Under the new requirements, FEMA will work in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers and local communities to inventory their flood control systems and reassess their levels of protection.

However, as FEMA remaps and reexamines flood threats, many households will find that they are no longer as safe as they thought.

In California alone there are more than 136 communities that contain at least one levee that will be impacted by the deaccreditation process.

These communities contain levees that will be, or may have already been, remapped and decertified for not providing protection from the 1 percent annual chance flood.

Many of the families in these impacted communities have lived in their homes for years, and believed that the levees in their backyards protected them from the threat of dangerous and costly flooding.

As a result of the changing risk, homeowners who were previously exempt from mandatory flood insurance may now be required to purchase flood insurance.

That is why I believe this bill is necessary. The Homeowners Flood Insurance Protection Act lightens this burden.

For nearly 40 years, the National Flood Insurance Program has been instrumental in making flood insurance readily available to all Americans:

Communities have partnered with the Federal Government to adopt and enforce floodplain management and, in turn, receive federally-backed insurance policies; and through the development of effective floodplain management strategies, millions of families have been protected from flooding and saved from the devastating costs associated with flood damage.

But today, the program is in danger. After the record-breaking losses of nearly \$20 billion suffered as a result of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, it is clear that the program needs to be updated.

This expansive project will allow communities to formulate responsible floodplain development plans and prepare for catastrophic flooding. The project will also ensure that the National Flood Insurance Program charges fair rates for their flood insurance premiums.

Now, I support the National Flood Insurance program and recognize the importance of mandatory purchase requirements.

The problem is that homeowners who have paid their taxes and helped to pay for the upkeep of these levees, will now find themselves forced to pay an additional insurance premium because of a failing levee.

Many of these individuals in my State and across the country are low-income earners and this increasing burden threatens to break the bank.

Coupled with rising energy, health care and home mortgage costs, the unexpected additional expense of flood insurance may be too much for some families.

That is why we need to offer this assistance.

We must act soon to overhaul our Nation's flood insurance program.

However, it is also our responsibility to mitigate the impact of the levee decertification process on thousands of unsuspecting families across the country.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2251

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "Homeowner's Flood Insurance Protection Act of 2007".

**SEC. 2. 5-YEAR DISCOUNT OF FLOOD INSURANCE RATES FOR FORMERLY PROTECTED AREAS.**

Section 1308 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4015) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by inserting "and subsection (g)" before the first comma; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(g) 5-YEAR DISCOUNT OF FLOOD INSURANCE RATES FOR FORMERLY PROTECTED AREAS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law relating to chargeable risk premium rates for flood insurance cov-

erage under this title, in the case of any area that previously was not designated as an area having special flood hazards because the area was protected by a flood protection system and that, pursuant to any updating, reviewing, or remapping of flood insurance program rate maps under this Act or any other subsequent Act, becomes designated as such an area as a result of the decertification of such flood protection system, during the 5-year period that begins upon the initial such designation of the area, the chargeable premium rate for flood insurance under this title with respect to any property that prior to the date of enactment of the Homeowner's Flood Insurance Protection Act of 2007 was located within such area shall be equal to 50 percent of the chargeable risk premium rate otherwise applicable under this title to the property.

"(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), any new property or structure developed, constructed, or otherwise built after the date of enactment of the Homeowner's Flood Insurance Protection Act of 2007 on any property described in such paragraph shall not be eligible for the chargeable premium rate discount under such paragraph."

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 357—A BILL DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11 THROUGH NOVEMBER 17, 2007, AS "NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK" TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VETERANS TO THE COUNTRY

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. INHOFE, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. CASEY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. TESTER, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KERRY, Mr. GREGG, Mr. COLEMAN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. DODD, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. BURR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 357

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by the people of the United States;

Whereas the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces;

Whereas this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accomplishments of those who have served in the

Armed Forces, despite the current educational efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations;

Whereas the system of civilian control of the Armed Forces makes it essential that the future leaders of the Nation understand the history of military action and the contributions and sacrifices of those who conduct such actions; and

Whereas in each of the years 2000 through 2006 the Senate has recognized the need to increase the understanding of the contributions of veterans among school-aged children by approving a resolution recognizing the week containing Veterans Day as "National Veterans Awareness Week": Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of November 11 through November 17, 2007, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" for the purpose of emphasizing educational efforts directed at elementary and secondary school students concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Veterans Awareness Week with appropriate educational activities.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3471. Mr. REID (for Mr. COLEMAN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 346, expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding during August 2007 in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin, and for other purposes.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3471.** Mr. REID (for Mr. COLEMAN) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 346, expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding during August 2007 in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin, and for other purposes; as follows:

Amend the title to read as follows: "Expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims of the devastating thunderstorms that caused severe flooding during August 2007 in the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin, and for other purposes."

#### CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to move to proceed to Calendar No. 450, H.R. 3963.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 3963 and send a cloture 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 motion to proceed to Cal. No. 450, H.R. 3963, Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007.

Max Baucus, Harry Reid, Benjamin L. Cardin, S. Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, Daniel K. Inouye, Jack Reed, Barbara Boxer, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Ken Salazar, Kent Conrad, Ron Wyden, Byron L. Dorgan, Debbie Stabenow, Bill Nelson, Robert P. Casey, Jr.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum as required under rule XXII be waived.

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

Mr. REID. I now withdraw the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 336 through 356; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

George E. Pataki, of New York, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Kelly G. Knight, of Kentucky, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Rodger D. Young, of Michigan, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

#### MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

William H. Frist, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of three years.

Kenneth Francis Hackett, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of two years. (Reappointment)

#### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

David T. Johnson, of Georgia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

Robin Renee Sanders, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Barry Leon Wells, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, to be

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of The Gambia.

Mark M. Boulware, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

James D. McGee, of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Ronald K. McMullen, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Eritrea.

P. Robert Fannin, of Arizona, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Dominican Republic.

Christopher Egan, of Massachusetts, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

Louis John Nigro, Jr., of Florida, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chad.

Paul E. Simons, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

Gail Dennise Mathieu, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Namibia.

Dan Mozena, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Angola.

Eunice S. Reddick, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Gabonese Republic, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Daniel V. Speckhard, of Wisconsin, a Career Member of the Senior Executive Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

Thomas F. Stephenson, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Portuguese Republic.

Vincent Obsitnik, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Slovak Republic.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one of the nominations we approved is Dr. William H. Frist to be a member of the board of directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of 3 years. This is Bill Frist who worked with us in the Senate for 12 years, who was majority leader and somebody with whom I worked very closely. He is a very fine man, a great reputation. He entered public service for the right reason. He was a prominent surgeon. He is