

LIHEAP. I have asked Republican appropriations chairmen and Democratic appropriations chairmen to increase support for LIHEAP. I have asked Health and Human Service Secretaries to release contingency funds in response to heat waves in the summer and cold snaps in the winter. And today, I have joined the senior Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. GREGG, as a cosponsor of an amendment to the farm bill that would provide an additional \$924 million for LIHEAP this year. The Senator from Vermont, Mr. SANDERS, has introduced a bill that would provide a billion dollars in emergency funds for LIHEAP, and I am a cosponsor of that legislation as well.

I have joined colleagues from both parties in requesting additional support of LIHEAP in the Omnibus appropriations bill that is now being drafted, and I have joined colleagues from both parties in seeking a meeting with Director Jim Nussle at the Office of Management and Budget in order to press for support for this vital program.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program has broad bipartisan support in the House and the Senate. We are pursuing a number of ways to get this increased assistance out to people who are having trouble heating their homes.

Quite frankly, these folks don't really care how we go about it. They just know that it was 8 degrees this morning in Manchester and that heating oil costs \$3.27 per gallon.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 6

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that any cloture filed on Wednesday, December 12, with respect to H.R. 6, the Energy bill, be considered as having been filed on Tuesday, December 11.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote in relation to the Dorgan-Grassley amendment No. 3695 occur at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, December 13.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes H.R. 2419 tomorrow, December 12, it proceed to vote in relation to the following two amendments in the order listed, with no amendments in order to the amendments prior to the votes, and that there be 2 minutes of debate prior to each vote, equally divided and controlled: Gregg amendments Nos. 3671 and 3672, with the second vote 10 min-

utes in duration; further, that on Wednesday, December 12, the following amendments be debated for the time limits specified, with all time equally divided and controlled in the usual form, with no amendments in order to any of the amendments covered under this agreement prior to a vote in relation to the amendment: Alexander amendments Nos. 3551 and 3353, with 30 minutes divided as follows: 10 minutes each for Senators Alexander, Bingaman, and Salazar; Cornyn amendment No. 3687, 30 minutes; Dorgan-Grassley amendment No. 3695, as modified, 2 hours; Klobuchar amendment No. 3810, 60 minutes; Gregg amendment No. 3673, 2 hours; Sessions amendment No. 3596, 40 minutes; Coburn amendments Nos. 3807, 3530, and 3632, a total of 90 minutes.

Mr. President, I will add, Senator COBURN, even though I get upset at him for offering all these amendments, some of which I think are not in the best interests of the Senate, is always very agreeable to work with. He is a very pleasant man. I like him a lot. Here is an indication on these amendments, about which he feels strongly. He agreed to a short period of time and rarely takes all his time. A little side comment.

Continuing the unanimous consent request, provided further, that the following amendments be subject to a 60-vote threshold, and that if the amendment achieves 60 votes, then it be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that if the amendment fails to achieve 60 votes, then it be withdrawn: Dorgan-Grassley amendment No. 3695, Gregg amendment No. 3673, and Klobuchar amendment No. 3810; further, that in any vote sequence, there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote, and that after the first vote in any sequence, the remaining votes be limited to 10 minutes.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

IMPORTANCE OF A CPSC BILL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss an issue that is very important to Americans, especially during this holiday season: the safety of consumer products.

The string of recalls of toys and other children's products we have all read about in the news over the past 6 months has created uncertainty and anxiety among parents shopping for their children for the holidays.

Parents now come to toy stores armed with shopping lists, as well as lists of toy recalls from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's Web site.

Their concern is understandable. This year has seen an unprecedented number of unsafe toys recalled this year—more than 25 million so far, and counting.

They include some of the most popular children's characters: Thomas the

Tank Engine, Elmo, Dora the Explorer, Polly Pockets—even Curious George and SpongeBob SquarePants.

The list of dangers range from high lead content and toxic chemicals to choking hazards and dangerously powerful magnets that can rip open a child's intestines if they are swallowed.

What is going on with all these recalls?

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is responsible for overseeing the safety of more than 15,000 consumer products—everything from toys to power tools.

That agency has suffered deeper staffing and budget cuts than any other Federal health and safety regulator.

Here are some numbers that ought to worry every American:

In 1974, its first year of operation, the CPSC had a budget of \$146 million in today's dollars. Today, its budget is less than half that amount: just over \$62 million.

In the last 3 years, the CPSC has suffered its deepest staff cuts since the Reagan administration—from 471 full-time employees down to just 401.

Today, with imports at an all-time high, the CPSC employs 15 port inspectors for the entire country.

In addition, CPSC does not have the authority or tools it needs to protect American consumers.

The CPSC cannot require premarket testing, cannot order a recall when it knows a product poses a hazard to consumers, and can't quickly notify the public of product hazards.

In some instances, the combination of lack of funding and lack of tools has led to unnecessary, preventable injuries and fatalities suffered by children.

It is hard to imagine that our lead product safety agency does not have these tools.

Fortunately, there is a set of proposals pending in the Senate that will aid consumer safety by restoring the CPSC to a functioning agency and requiring manufacturers of children's products to test and certify the safety of their products.

The Senate Commerce Committee has reported a bill by voice vote, authored by Senator PRYOR, that would fix many of these problems.

Commerce Committee Chairman INOUE and Senator PRYOR, chairman of the Consumer Affairs Subcommittee, deserve credit for a balanced, responsible plan.

The bill would more than double CPSC's current budget, to \$141 million, and increase the agency's staff by 20 percent over the next 7 years.

It would also eliminate the use of dangerous lead in toys; require independent, third-party safety tests of toys before they can be sold in this country; give the CPSC new powers to regulate the marketplace, including more authority to force the recall of dangerous products more quickly; give State prosecutors the authority to enforce Federal consumer safety laws;

and increase the maximum fines for willful violation of consumer safety laws from \$1.8 million to \$100 million.

I expect the Senate to move important legislation in this area before the holiday. The House, led by Congressman BOBBY RUSH, is engaged in a similar effort on the House side.

If we are going to pass stronger consumer product safety legislation, it is vital that we have bipartisan cooperation and pursue this legislation in a bipartisan fashion. I support the effort led by Senators INOUE and PRYOR to reach out to Senators STEVENS and SUNUNU of the Commerce Committee to do just that.

I encourage these efforts to continue in order to produce a robust bill that will improve consumer safety and the functioning of the CPSC.

It is a noncontroversial, bipartisan idea that the American public expects.

TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE LAINE WEBB

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, in Moline, IL, Maggie Laine Webb will be buried.

A promising career took Maggie away from Moline. Sadly, gun violence has brought her home.

Maggie Webb was working at the Van Maur department store in Omaha last Wednesday when a 19-year-old man opened fire with an AK-47 assault rifle, killing eight people and wounding five more before taking his own life.

Maggie Webb was the youngest of the gunman's victims. She was just 24; she would have turned 25 in 2 weeks.

She had transferred to Omaha from another Von Maur department store just 6 weeks earlier. In Omaha, Maggie was a store manager—a position of unusual responsibility for someone her age. But then, Maggie Webb was, by all accounts, an unusually responsible, talented young woman.

At Moline High School, where she graduated in 2001, Maggie was a softball standout, she ran track, and she was involved in student council and many other activities. She went on to graduate in 2005 from Illinois State University.

News of her death has hit many of her former teachers at Moline High School hard. Bill Burrus, the school principal, said one teacher remarked of Maggie, "She was one of the good ones," paused, and then said, "No, one of the great ones."

Maggie Webb is survived by her parents, Dave and Vicki Webb, of Port Byron, IL, and her two older sisters.

Our thoughts, prayers, and condolences are with the Webb family and all of the families affected by this senseless violence.

FURTHER CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 21

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, section 307 of S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 budget resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the

allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels for legislation, including one or more bills and amendments, that reauthorizes the 2002 farm bill or similar or related programs, provides for revenue changes, or any combination thereof. Section 307 authorizes the revisions provided that certain conditions are met, including that amounts provided in the legislation for the above purposes not exceed \$20 billion over the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 and that the legislation not worsen the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2007 through 2017.

I find that Senate amendment No. 3711 offered by Senator LUGAR to Senate amendment No. 3500, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2419, satisfies the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for the farm bill. Therefore, pursuant to section 307, I am adjusting the aggregates in the 2008 budget resolution, as well as the allocation provided to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee.

I ask unanimous consent to have the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 RECORDED.

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

Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008—S. Con. Res. 21; Further Revisions to the Conference Agreement Pursuant to Section 307 Deficit-Neutral Reserve Fund for the Farm Bill

[In billions of dollars]

Section 101

(1)(A) Federal Revenues:

FY 2007	1,900.340
FY 2008	2,024.835
FY 2009	2,121.607
FY 2010	2,176.229
FY 2011	2,357.094
FY 2012	2,498.971

(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:

FY 2007	-4.366
FY 2008	-25.961
FY 2009	14.681
FY 2010	12.508
FY 2011	-37.456
FY 2012	-98.125

(2) New Budget Authority:

FY 2007	2,371.470
FY 2008	2,509.169
FY 2009	2,523.934
FY 2010	2,581.464
FY 2011	2,696.588
FY 2012	2,737.256

(3) Budget Outlays:

FY 2007	2,294.862
FY 2008	2,471.293
FY 2009	2,569.600
FY 2010	2,607.308
FY 2011	2,702.556
FY 2012	2,717.397

Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008—S. Con. Res. 21; Further Revisions to the Conference Agreement Pursuant to Section 307 Deficit-Neutral Reserve Fund for the Farm Bill

[In millions of dollars]

Current Allocation to Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee:

FY 2007 Budget Authority	14,284
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Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008—S. Con. Res. 21; Further Revisions to the Conference Agreement Pursuant to Section 307 Deficit-Neutral Reserve Fund for the Farm Bill—Continued

FY 2007 Outlays	14,056
FY 2008 Budget Authority	17,088
FY 2008 Outlays	14,629
FY 2008-2012 Budget Authority	76,881
FY 2008-2012 Outlays	71,049

Adjustments:

FY 2007 Budget Authority	0
FY 2007 Outlays	0
FY 2008 Budget Authority	336
FY 2008 Outlays	-255
FY 2008-2012 Budget Authority	-2,290
FY 2008-2012 Outlays	-5,504

Revised Allocation to Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee:

FY 2007 Budget Authority	14,284
FY 2007 Outlays	14,056
FY 2008 Budget Authority	17,424
FY 2008 Outlays	14,374
FY 2008-2012 Budget Authority	74,591
FY 2008-2012 Outlays	65,545

FURTHER CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 21

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, earlier today, pursuant to section 307 of S. Con. Res. 21, I filed revisions to S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 budget resolution. Those revisions were made for Senate amendment No. 3711, an amendment offered to Senate amendment No. 3500, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2419.

The Senate did not adopt Senate amendment No. 3711. As a consequence, I am further revising the 2008 budget resolution and reversing the adjustments made pursuant to section 307 to the aggregates and the allocation provided to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee for Senate amendment No. 3711.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 be printed in the RECORD.

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

Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008—S. Con. Res. 21; Further Revisions to the Conference Agreement Pursuant to Section 307 Deficit-Neutral Reserve Fund for the Farm Bill

[In billions of dollars]

Section 101

(1)(A) Federal Revenues:

FY 2007	1,900.340
FY 2008	2,024.835
FY 2009	2,121.607
FY 2010	2,176.229
FY 2011	2,357.094
FY 2012	2,498.971

(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:

FY 2007	-4.366
FY 2008	-25.961
FY 2009	14.681
FY 2010	12.508
FY 2011	-37.456
FY 2012	-98.125

(2) New Budget Authority:

FY 2007	2,371.470
FY 2008	2,508.833
FY 2009	2,526.124
FY 2010	2,581.369
FY 2011	2,696.797