

Counseling Association (NRCA), the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association (ARCA), the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC), the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation (CSAVR), and the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) have stood firm to advocate up-to-date education and training and the maintenance of professional standards in the field of rehabilitation counseling and education;

Whereas on March 22, 1983, Martha Walker of Kent State University, who was President of the NCRC, testified before the Subcommittee on Select Education of the House of Representatives, and was instrumental in bringing to the attention of Congress the need for rehabilitation counselors to be qualified; and

Whereas the efforts of Martha Walker led to the enactment of laws that now require rehabilitation counselors to have proper credentials in order to provide a higher level of quality service to those in need: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 22, 2007, as National Rehabilitation Counselors Appreciation Day; and

(2) commends all of the hard work and dedication that rehabilitation counselors provide to individuals in need and the numerous efforts that the multiple professional organizations have made to assisting those who require rehabilitation.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask morning business be closed.

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

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 536

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise tonight to discuss for a few minutes amendment No. 536, which has been filed by my colleague from Georgia, Senator ISAKSON, and myself. In offering this amendment to the budget resolution, we truly believe it is a fair amendment and puts children first, in the way the State Children's Health Insurance Program was intended.

When SCHIP was created in 1997, it was instituted to do exactly what the name states: provide health care coverage to uninsured children. I do not believe you will find anyone here who disagrees with that purpose because it provides health insurance to hard-working families who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to buy private insurance.

There has been a lot of discussion about the long-term aspects of that program lately, and rightfully so. However, some States are using their SCHIP funding to cover adults, and that is not the intention of this program. In fact, three States have more adults as enrollees than children. There are 12 States that will spend almost \$807 million of their SCHIP money on more than 671,000 adults this year.

When we talk about children's health care, two of the components that are critical include dental care and mental health care. That is the specific focus of our amendment. Our proposal would eliminate States in receiving an enhanced SCHIP matching rate for adults who are covered under the SCHIP program. If States continue to choose to insure adults with SCHIP funds, they will receive a lower Federal match instead of the normal SCHIP match. We think this approach makes the most sense because SCHIP was created to cover children.

The increased Federal match was created as an incentive for States to cover these kids, not adults. This new lower match rate for adults will free up funding to create a budget-neutral reserve fund to provide for dental and mental health benefits for children. So, again, our amendment simply says this: If States want to use their SCHIP funds to cover adults, which is a decision States may choose to make, they will receive the Medicaid matching rate.

We are not saying the States should not provide health insurance coverage for adults who need it. At the same time it is important to emphasize that SCHIP funding is for kids. Our amendment uses this funding intended for children for two very important components of children's health care, that being dental care and mental health.

I believe we must craft policies to ensure the greatest number of children are provided quality health care and quality dental care. I was extremely saddened to hear recently of a 12-year-old boy in Prince George's County, MD, who died from a toothache and an inability to find proper care. I do not know whether this child was on an SCHIP program or was on Medicaid. But this is only one example of the need for increased access to dental care for children. It is heartbreaking and inexcusable that something as tragic as this could happen, when a routine tooth extraction may have saved this young boy's life.

Parents know and understand that things as routine as dental care are critically important to a child's overall health. Tooth decay remains a prevalent, chronic disease, and is the single most common childhood disease nationwide. It is five times as common as asthma, and, unfortunately, minority, low-income, and geographically isolated children suffer disproportionately from this disease. Eighty percent of all tooth decay is found in only 25 percent of children. These are the children the SCHIP program was created to help. We can and we must do better for these kids. This amendment does exactly what we ought to be doing with SCHIP, namely providing health insurance coverage for children, not adults.

I urge my colleagues to do what is right and support this amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 619

Mr. President, let me very quickly talk about one other amendment I have filed. It is amendment No. 619.

This particular amendment deals with the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant Program, which is commonly referred to as the Byrne/JG Program. It is an amendment which Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator ISAKSON, Senator GRAHAM, and I have filed. The Byrne/JG Program is the primary provider of Federal criminal justice funding to State and local jurisdictions. The funding supports all components of the criminal justice system from multi-jurisdictional drug and gang task forces to community crime prevention programs, to substance abuse programs, prosecution initiatives, domestic violence programs, and information-sharing initiatives.

I will tell you that our law enforcement officials, our sheriffs, our prosecutors, our drug court professionals, and many of our public servants in the law enforcement arena rely on this funding to make our communities safer. The results they get with this funding are tangible and real.

In February of last year, the Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy conducted a survey to obtain a clearer, quantifiable, and more complete national picture of the Byrne/JG program's impact on drug and criminal efforts in America. This survey focused on the 2004 grant year and found that drug enforcement task forces funded by the Byrne/JG program in 45 States made more than 221,000 drug arrests. The achievements of those multijurisdictional drug enforcement task forces are impressive.

For example, 45 States reported seizing almost 18,000 kilograms of cocaine, with an estimated consumer street value of over \$1.6 billion. Forty States reported seizing just shy of 5,500 kilograms of methamphetamine, with an estimated street value of \$518 million.

The States participating in this survey reported the total value of drugs seized at over \$12 billion. This figure represents more than \$63 dollars in seized drugs for every dollar spent on drug task forces. This is indeed an amendment which will reinstate the level of funding for the Byrne/JG Program to last year's level. We are not asking it to be any higher than that. By doing that, we will allow our law enforcement community to continue to provide the type of safety and protection citizens all across America want.

Before I yield the floor, I wish to note several well-respected organizations, including the National Narcotics Officers Association Coalition, the National Sheriffs' Association, the National District Attorneys' Association, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, the National Criminal Justice Association, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police support this robust funding for the program.

I encourage my colleagues to support amendment No. 619.

Mr. President, I ask that my entire statement be inserted into the RECORD.

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

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am delighted to come to the floor and join in support of the amendment offered by Senator CHAMBLISS and myself with regard to the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

The State Children's Health Insurance Program was begun in 1997. At that particular time I was chairman of the board of education in the State of Georgia. I applauded the Federal Government for providing this asset and this benefit to our States.

For the benefit of those who aren't familiar, the SCHIP program is a Medicaid Program, but unlike Medicaid today, it is a block grant, it is not an entitlement. Specific funds are block-granted to the States for the purpose of providing affordable health insurance to children in poverty.

That is the way the program began. As years have gone by, States have chosen to elect to ask for waivers from Washington to expand the coverage beyond children. Meritoriously, some States have asked to cover pregnant mothers in poverty under the SCHIP program. I would be the first person to tell you that is an appropriate appropriation of funds and the intent of the bill.

However, other States have chosen to add adults who do not have children to coverage under SCHIP, the result of which has compromised the program and taken money that was intended to go to children and sent it to adults.

By way of example, my State of Georgia runs out of SCHIP money this month. We do not provide any SCHIP benefits to anybody who is not a child. Our eligibility threshold is 235 percent of poverty. So it is exactly as prescribed originally. But because we are a growth State and in addition took on the children from Katrina, we have run out of money early, because we had an increase in the number of people in our State using and taking advantage of SCHIP.

There are other States that have used their money up by adults consuming it under this program. What Senator CHAMBLISS and I have done is simply said this: If you are going to include adults in the Children's Health Insurance Program, which is a Medicaid program, then the reimbursement to those States by the Federal Government for the cost for children ought to be the enhanced amount which Congress passed in 1997, which is about 70 percent of the cost. But if you are going to include adults, that match ought to be the 63-percent Medicaid match, not the enhanced match that was put in to attract people in the first place to provide children's health insurance. Then you take that differential and you put it into a reserve fund, and offer States the opportunity to enhance their children's health insurance by including dental and/or mental health benefits.

We know from our experience with young children in poverty that early prevention of dental disease and good dental health provides a lifetime for those children of healthy teeth, a lifetime of absence of dental disease, and a saving of untold millions of dollars in this country.

So what Senator CHAMBLISS and I have brought to the floor is very simply this premise: If you pass a State Children's Health Insurance Program, shouldn't it go to the benefit of children's health? If you decide to include adults, why should the Medicaid match be any greater than it is for adults anyway? And if you create additional funds by making this differentiation, should not those funds go to the two areas which are most important in terms of children's health, dental and mental health?

I submit this is a thoughtful amendment. It is affordable because it is budget neutral. It takes the SCHIP program back to where it was intended, for children. It does not punish a State that includes adults under the Medicaid program, but it requires them to go back to the regular Medicaid match, not the enhanced match that was created for children's health insurance.

If we adopt this amendment, more children will have healthier lives and children in poverty will continue to get the benefit of a wise and beneficial program this Congress passed in 1997.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

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

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

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I thank the Presiding Officer for staying here late this evening. I hope anyone who is not watching this is watching the KU-Southern Illinois game on right now, which is quite a barn burner going on.

I have an amendment I want to talk about, because we are going to go into the long voting session tomorrow and will not have a great deal of time to talk about it then. But it is an important amendment. It is an important amendment for the budget. It is an important amendment for the long-term process.

A lot of my colleagues will be very familiar with the BRAC process, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission process. It was enacted at least a dozen years ago, probably a little more than that. It is a process by which we have a commission look at military bases. They consider the military bases, consider whether they are useful where they are currently located, if it would be better for them to be realigned, if it is better for a base to

be closed and that money put somewhere else.

It has been a very effective process for us to be able to take spending and put it in higher priority areas, whereas historically if you tried to eliminate a military base, it was virtually impossible to do, because you would go at the military base in a particular State, and it would not matter how old the base had been or whether it was out of position, the Members of that State would defend it.

We were rarely able to close a military base. So we enacted the BRAC process. That process created a commission, and they looked at all the military establishments. It then said that these 65, 125, 233 bases should be closed. We have higher priorities for this money. The process is chopped off on by the President, and then it comes to Congress, one vote up or down, agree, disagree, deal or no deal. By that means, we have realigned over \$40 billion in annual appropriations, total appropriations on military bases. It has been a very good process to eliminate wasteful Federal spending in places where it is not needed. We need that process for the rest of Government. We spend about \$2.9 trillion on an annual basis. We have not found effective ways to eliminate wasteful Federal spending.

I have yet to find somebody running for public office at the Federal level—or any level, for that matter—who says they are for wasteful government spending or they are for duplicative government spending. If everybody is saying they are against it and they are against waste, fraud, and abuse and they keep looking for that line in the budget to wipe it out, here is a realistic way we can deal with that, take that BRAC process and apply to it the rest of Government.

What could it yield? Let me give some examples using this quick report card. Regularly, the Government puts out a report card on the effectiveness of our own Government spending programs, whether they are hitting their targets or not. They score them. You can look here at a few of agencies. For the State Department, they reviewed 40 programs for this OMB report card. They score them for effectiveness in what the program was targeted for. They were at a median score of 77.93 percent. I gave them the letter grade of a C-plus, based on the regular report card system. Here you can see the Department of Education, HUD, EPA. For the Department of Education, 74 programs were scored. They had a median score of 44.5, which I gave a letter score of an F. That is what my kids would get. That is what I would give if I were teaching, saying: This is not an effective Government program. Why is it we can't go in and find some of these education programs that are not being effective and eliminate them? It is because the system is built to spend.

There is an old maxim that Ronald Reagan used that there is nothing so

permanent as a temporary Government program. Once in place, they seem to sustain themselves. They get a support group around them, and then the specific controls over the general. If it is a program that somebody in Vermont wants to maintain or Kansas wants to maintain, even though maybe its effectiveness is very low, we defend it because it is for our States. That is the specific. If the general interest would say this should be eliminated, let's change the system so they can save money. We can do so using the military base-closing process and use that money for higher priority needs.

I want to eliminate deaths by cancer in 10 years. This is going to take a real research effort and focus. To do so, we spend \$2.9 trillion in the budget now. We have enough money, but it is not in the right places. Let's use this system to reduce and eliminate wasteful spending and then be able to target higher priority areas.

This is a program which both Republicans and Democrats, in whatever philosophical position you may put yourself, would say is a good idea. This is something which is bipartisan, non-partisan, and it is for good governance and good government. It changes the system because the system is built to spend. It is built to spend almost perennially. It needs to be adjusted.

I want to quote from former President Clinton's adviser Paul Weinstein, of the Progressive Policy Institute, who testified before the Senate about this approach:

Our organization has believed that the best way to achieve comprehensive reform in the executive branch is to combine the commission function with a mechanism to require Congress to vote on its recommendations. Senator Brownback's CARFA [Commission on Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies] legislation would provide this type of commission.

Here again, we have to realize the difficulties of this system. The strength of the system is spending money. The strength of the system is not saving money. Change it to combine both a commission and a requirement for legislative action.

Under the CARFA proposal, once every 4 years an agency would be reviewed for recommendations being made on whether eliminations should be made in that agency. It would then be put together in a package and sent to the President to either agree or disagree. It would then go to the Congress for the Congress to look at, as we do the BRAC process now. It would then be required to be voted upon with a limited time period for debate without amendment. You look at it, and then you get a chance to look at the overall practices and the package, and then you can say I agree, vote yes, I disagree, vote no, deal or no deal. This is a process which has worked.

I submit to my colleagues, both sides of the aisle, all persuasions, we have a lot of high-priority needs. We don't have the money focused in the high-priority areas. Too often, it is focused

on things that we are maintaining from the past that maybe have less saliency today but still have a protection group around them, and we haven't found a way to eliminate them or get in and do it. Here is a way to do it, and it doesn't favor one side's program or the other's. It says: We are going to have this in a bipartisan commission, and we are going to change the process so we can save the money. Then that money will be used for higher needs.

This is an effective way for us to move forward. I urge my colleagues, when we get a chance to vote on my amendment, to look at this and say: That is something which I want to endorse, something I want to support, because it is going to allow us to more effectively spend the Federal money. One of the things people tell me that drives them the most crazy about Federal spending is wasteful Federal spending. Here is a way. We redesign the system to get at it. I urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The senior Senator from Ohio is recognized.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, I rise to share with the Senate my concerns and frustrations with S. Con. Res. 21, the fiscal year 2008 budget resolution, and to discuss two amendments I will offer tomorrow to try to improve the resolution.

Frankly, the resolution before this body ignores the dire state of our financial future and uses smoke and mirrors to mask our long-term fiscal challenges. I have come to the Senate floor numerous times over the past 8 years to express my concern that the Federal Government continues to spend more money than it brings in and that this Congress is running a credit card for today's needs and shamelessly leaving the bill for future generations. We all know this recklessness threatens our economic stability, our competitiveness in the global marketplace, and our future way of life.

Since I arrived in the Senate, the national debt has increased from \$5.6 trillion to \$8.6 trillion. That is an increase of more than 50 percent in 8 years. This amounts to \$29,000 of debt for every American. Can my colleagues believe that? What is of even more concern, however, is that 55 percent of the privately owned national debt is held by foreign creditors, including the Chinese Government. That is up from 35 percent only 6 years ago. Yet these numbers, which represent our past behavior, pale in comparison with the budget problems looming in our future as the baby boom generation begins to retire over 9 months from now.

Forty years ago, Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid accounted for 3 percent of our GDP. Today, they are up to 9 percent. In another 40 years, they will be up to 18 percent, equal to total Federal revenues and crowding out all other spending. In other words, all of the money the Federal Government

spends currently will be used up for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. There won't be any money for anything else.

Looking forward, we face a long-term fiscal imbalance of \$55 trillion. That is hard to even grasp, but it translates into \$440,000 of future Government debt for every American household, up from a mere \$175,000 only 6 years ago. This is all documented. If we listen to David Walker, who is the Comptroller General, he is going all over the country—he was in my State in Cincinnati for a fiscal wake-up—working with the Concord Coalition to let Americans know. He is like the Paul Revere out there telling Americans we better be concerned about this. I remember Ross Perot, who ran for the President of the United States, and all of his charts. His charts looked like nothing compared to the charts we would use to show how bad things are.

Imposing a crushing debt burden such as this on future generations at the same time they are going to have to compete with rising powers such as China and India is unacceptable. All of us have a responsibility to try to guarantee that they enjoy the same standard of living and quality of life we have enjoyed, if not better. This young page here in front of me—I am worried about him. What kind of a life is he going to have? What kind of an opportunity is he going to have in terms of his standard of living and quality of life? We are concerned about him. What kind of a legacy are we going to leave him? What about my seven grandchildren? What kind of a world are they going to live in? That is why the chairman of the Budget Committee and I have spoken over the past few years about the growing debt and the impact it will have on future generations.

Yet we are here today with the majority's budget resolution that increases the national debt by \$2.4 trillion over the next 5 years. That is assuming Congress doesn't take advantage of all of the loopholes that are in the budget. We are back at square one. Neither Republicans nor Democrats have offered a budget that even comes close to reestablishing our fiscal sanity. The administration's budget is unrealistic, and the Democratic budget is even worse.

I am going to vote against the Democratic budget. If this were the Republican budget, I would vote against that budget, too. Both of them. Once again, we have pulled the wool over our own eyes. That is what is going on.

Some of my colleagues, especially my new colleagues, may wonder why I take such offense at the budget. Unfortunately I am a product of my experiences. The Bible says the Lord never gives you a challenge you cannot overcome. Well, he has tested me before, and he is testing all of us right now.

As mayor of Cleveland, I inherited the first city in the country to go bankrupt since the Great Depression. We made cuts, we raised taxes, and we

righted the ship. When I took the helm as Governor of Ohio, I inherited a \$1.5 billion budget shortfall that can only be described as a financial crisis. During the first biennial budget, we had to make four rounds of cuts. These were dire economic times which required honesty, leadership, and management. I was forced to make a lot of hard choices. We had to reform our tax policy, scale back spending, and target our resources to the people who needed them the most. We worked harder and smarter, and we succeeded at doing more with less. In fact, my years as Governor represent the lowest rate of growth in State spending in 30 years.

Here in Washington, it seems as if no one is willing to make the tough choices. I cannot understand it. Too many Members won't do anything if it doesn't bolster their side politically or fit into a 10-second sound bite. Instead, both parties are using gimmicks to cover up the state of our Nation's long-term fiscal health.

Let me offer some examples. The administration released its fiscal 2008 budget request in early February and projected a deficit of \$239 billion. This number is the deficit left over after spending every dollar of Social Security surplus. But the Social Security surplus must be reserved for future retirees. As far as I know, you can't spend the money twice, but Congress keeps pretending that it can. If you remove the Social Security surplus from the equation, that \$239 billion deficit they are talking about almost doubles to \$451 billion. If you use the accrual way of figuring it, it is about \$640 billion.

The administration goes further to achieve its surplus by assuming non-security discretionary spending will peak in 2007 and go down every year after that. So we are reducing our deficit by eating our seed corn. That is a real problem today.

What we have to understand is that only one-sixth of the budget is non-defense discretionary. All of the hits are being made against that one-sixth to try to balance the budget. We are ignoring so many things this country ought to be doing.

Furthermore, the administration calculates the security-related discretionary spending will peak in 2008, and that supplemental spending for military operations will end after 2009. Give me a break. We are going to end that in 2009? We are going to be over in Iraq and Afghanistan for a long period of time. But the President just increased the number of troops going to Iraq by more than 21,000. These estimates are not based on reality. Why don't we tell the American people the truth? Let's tell them the truth.

Meanwhile, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are using tricks that even are more egregious. The majority's budget allows for a dramatic increase in entitlement spending through the use of more than 20 reserve funds. They are not included in the

overall budget totals. They simply conceal what they intend to spend and it gives the appearance of a more responsible budget.

The majority's budget hides increases in discretionary spending through the use of seven cap adjustments. Appropriations for seven favored programs and agencies will not count toward the budget limit. Just like that, poof, and they are gone.

Furthermore, the majority's budget allows for unlimited emergency spending. I think we all understand that on occasion we have natural disasters or unanticipated crises, such as Hurricane Katrina, that require emergency resources. For this reason, we cannot estimate all of our emergency spending in the budget. But a great deal of the spending that is currently designated as "emergency" is actually quite regular and predictable.

For example, every year we spend emergency funds on drought relief. This is difficult for me to understand: If we spend it every year, why can't we account for it in our budget? This is why we ought to have a rainy day fund such as I had when I was Governor that set aside designated funds for legitimate natural disasters so the "emergency" label is not abused for otherwise anticipated events.

My friend from New Hampshire, Senator GREGG, created a rainy day fund with a fixed dollar limit in last year's budget resolution, and I thought: That is a great idea. But the new majority has already eliminated that fund from the budget and has created an open-ended source of emergency spending that is not subject to any financial limitations.

There is one trick after another in this budget resolution. We are already raiding the Social Security trust fund and a bunch of smaller trust funds to make our bottom line look rosier than it is. This budget exacerbates a problem the Budget Committee chairman himself and I have spoken out against for a great many years.

I have a great deal of respect for the Democratic chairman of the Budget Committee. I think he is one of the most responsible guys, but he has also got to do his thing in terms of the politics of this Senate. In fact, in the last Congress, the Budget Committee chairman and I introduced legislation that would invest the Social Security surplus in non-Federal bonds to prevent the surplus from being used to fund other Government spending. We plan to reintroduce this bill again.

In other words, what we are saying is we are going to take the money that is now being used to fund the budget and instead of borrowing it from trust funds—Social Security—we are going to take the Social Security funds and put them in a non-U.S. account—municipal bonds—so they will accrue interest; and when the time comes that we will need to use that money, there will be something there besides an IOU from the Federal Government that says: We are going to take care of it.

The bill would require the Government issue more Treasuries to the public in order to pay for other spending instead of borrowing from Social Security. What we basically are going to say to the American public is: We are borrowing all these funds from Social Security, all the other trust funds, and we are going to put that aside, and we are going to borrow that money from the public so you know how much borrowing is going on. We are not going to mask this thing, as we have done for so many years.

We thought, finally our children and grandchildren will have a clear picture of how fiscally irresponsible we are. But today the Budget Committee chairman is relying on the very same gimmick—borrowing from the Social Security trust fund—to claim a balance in 2012.

What about taxes? The majority's budget claims that \$400 billion in revenue will be collected from "closing the 'tax gap'"—in other words, collecting more of the taxes that are currently owed but not paid. Yet the President's proposal to collect just 2 percent of this \$400 billion caused small businesses to howl in protest that the new administrative and compliance burdens would overwhelm them.

In other words, it is easy to talk about closing the tax gap, but from a political point of view, it is not going to be very easy. We should do that. There is no question about it. I talked to Charles Rossotti, who was the former head of the Internal Revenue Service. He said with more filings and more people in the Internal Revenue Service, we should be able to pick up another \$50 billion. That is a realistic way of looking at it. But just to say: \$400 billion; we are going to come up with it somehow; close the tax gap, and it is all going to be there—voila.

In fact, the Greater Cleveland Partnership and the Council of Smaller Enterprises, which represent small business in northeast Ohio, describe the administration's tax gap proposals—by the way, this is not a Democratic proposal; this is the administration's tax gap proposals—as "an unreasonable tracking and reporting burden for small business." And that is just for 2 percent of the revenue the majority claims it can raise by going after small businesses. We should try to collect money that is owed, but if it were that easy—as my friend from Iowa Senator GRASSLEY suggests—we would have found the money to fix the AMT years ago.

But, sadly, these gimmicks are not the worst part of the budget. What is more disturbing about this resolution is what is not included. The majority did not designate one dime in Social Security, Medicare, or Medicaid savings to help slow the impending entitlement tidal wave heading our way—not one dime. Entitlement spending threatens to flood our budget and soak up every Federal dollar, as I mentioned

earlier, leaving no revenue for education, the environment, infrastructure, or scientific research. The majority's budget ignores this problem.

In fact, this budget does worse than ignore the problem. It will pile billions of dollars in new entitlement spending on top of the existing problem. It is so obvious that this budget resolution simply satisfies a political agenda. It is a public relations campaign that the majority is using to avoid telling the American people the truth. I am accusing them of that, and I have to say the same thing for my side of the aisle. We are both guilty. All of our hands are dirty.

To add to insult, since Republicans switched to 5-year budgets a few years ago, Democrats have repeatedly called for 10-year budgets because 5-year budgets hide our long-term problems. In other words, the other side of the aisle kept complaining: You are using 5-year budgets because if you use 10, the American people are going to find out how much money you are spending. So we went to the 5-year budget. We want to hide that figure about the next 5 years. If the Democrats wanted to do it this time, I would have said: Do the 10-year budget. Let the American people know what the truth is about how much money this budget is going to cost.

For example, the CBO currently projects that total outlays for Medicare and Medicaid will more than double—more than double—by 2017, increasing by 124 percent. This is roughly two times as much as the economy is expected to grow during the same period. A 5-year forecast hides this explosion in entitlement liabilities. Tell the truth—transparency. Let the American people know what the score is.

Yet, here we are, with Democrats in control of both Chambers, and they are trying to pass a 5-year budget that continues to cover up the gathering fiscal storm looming on our horizon. Shame on us. Shame on them. They are playing the game we played starting in 2004, after promising to do better.

I take our Nation's fiscal health very seriously. I am concerned there is a lack of transparency in this budget. There are gaping loopholes the majority can exploit to cause spending and deficits to rise much higher than the budget resolution claims. In an attempt to close some of these loopholes, tomorrow I am going to offer two amendments.

First, we need to reform our Nation's entitlement programs. I have been begging on my knees trying to get the White House to take on the responsibility of reforming our Tax Code—we need it; it is overdue—to take on entitlements, to reach out to Republicans and Democrats and say: The time has come. Let's put everything on the table. Let's reform our Tax Code. Let's do something about entitlements. The fact is, silence—silence. I have to tell you, if we do not do this, then our children and grandchildren are going to

drown—they are going to drown—in a sea of debt.

I am concerned, however, that if we reform entitlements and save billions of dollars, Congress might grab those savings and spend some of them on other programs instead of paying down the debt. So what I am saying is, I am hoping—and I know the chairman of the Budget Committee, the Senator from North Dakota, has said he wants entitlement spending reform—I am hoping we get it. All this amendment says is: If we do get entitlement spending reform, it is going to be used to pay down the debt and not fund other entitlements.

I previously introduced legislation called the SAFE Commission Act that would guarantee a fast-track, comprehensive approach to reforming our Nation's tax, entitlement, and budget systems. If the 110th Congress enacts entitlement reform, either by way of legislation or as a result of another bipartisan effort, we must use those savings to reduce the deficit and, as I say, pay down the debt and not on entitlement spending.

Specifically, my first amendment would require any savings from legislation that slows the growth of entitlement spending by \$5 billion or more be dedicated to deficit reduction. Some of my colleagues are asking: George, why are you worrying about this? Well, I hope we have this problem where we have to decide what to do with these entitlement savings we have enacted. Because, as I said earlier, the majority has not included even one dime's worth of savings in this budget resolution. We do nothing—not one thing—in this budget about entitlement spending.

Second, every time we enact new entitlement spending or tax cuts, which are financed through additional borrowing, we increase the level of interest payments the Government has to make on its debt. I have talked about this debt and the interest costs. These new interest costs represent additional Government spending. Yet, CBO cost estimates ignore the effect of these interest payments on spending and the national debt.

In other words, we are spending money on reducing taxes—and we are paying for it by borrowing—or we are spending money on new programs—and we are borrowing the money—because we keep ratcheting up the debt and we do not calculate the interest costs that are involved in either tax reductions or the spending for these new programs.

These ballooning interest costs add up to \$370 billion in 2008. Think about this: That interest cost will be 13 percent of the budget. The public needs to know that in addition to spending additional money on new programs, we are paying interest on that money. I am concerned about these growing interest costs because they are part of our mounting national debt.

Frankly, our interest rates are low right now, but they could skyrocket. The first couple years I was mayor of

Cleveland, interest rates at the time were 13 percent. Some Americans remember savings passbooks that were paying 14 and 16 percent. I will never forget it because I had the money for my children's college education in mutual funds. I sold the mutual funds and put them in the passbook savings because we were getting—can you imagine—we were getting 16 percent—16 percent—on a passbook investment.

I think we need to wake up to the fact that if we get a change in the international marketplace—as I mentioned earlier, 55 percent of our budget is with foreign investors—if those central banks get a little bit nervous about the United States of America—and I have talked to Alan Greenspan about this; we could see interest rates skyrocket to 12 percent, 13 percent—that would suck up an enormous amount of money.

So the fact is, we ought to pay attention to letting people know when we either reduce taxes, and borrow the money, or we spend money above the budget, somebody has to pay some interest on that cost. We must stop this charade once and for all. Both sides of the aisle have a clear, moral obligation to improve the fiscal health of our Nation. It starts with formulating a fair and honest budget. Yet we are being dishonest and masking the long-term challenges that confront our Nation.

We must deal with these problems head on and work on a bipartisan basis to reform our tax system, control the growth of entitlement spending, and slow this freight train that is threatening to crush our children and grandchildren's futures.

Experts say the most important step you can take is to first admit you have a problem. I will never forget when I was mayor of Cleveland and came in, the easiest thing sometimes in life was just to keep the problems in a drawer and not look at them and hope they would go away. I found a long time ago that if you take those problems and pull them out and deal with them, you are so much better off than if you just let them lay around and get worse.

The question today is, Do we have the moral courage to fix it? Do we have the moral courage? Can we do that? It is a moral issue.

I will never forget Frank Wolf. I gave a speech last year and Frank called me and he said: I am going to put a bill in, and we are going to set up a commission that is going to do something about tax reform and entitlement.

He said: I have—I think he said 11 or 12 grandchildren. He said: I thought about it. I am a fiscal conservative. He said: But you know something. We have a moral obligation to our children. We just can't let this thing keep going. The fact is, do we have that moral conviction to fix it or are we too darn interested in protecting our political hides—our political hides—to do anything? Do we have the courage to do it? Do we have the courage?

I am 70 years old. I have seven grandchildren. I care and worry about them.

My concern is what legacy am I going to leave my children and my grandchildren. I was fortunate. We were fortunate. We had others before us who were responsible—others, for example, who were willing to pay for the wars that we were in. Today, in this country, let's see, it is up to \$510 billion for Iraq and Afghanistan, and if we pass the supplemental, it is going to be \$610 billion. The only sacrifice that is being made today in this country is by the families that have the body bags returned to them. Twenty-six thousand of our men and women who have been injured, half of them disabled for the rest of their life, and we are not doing anything. We are not doing anything.

Last year, I said if we can't get tax reform to raise the money that we need to take care of things, then we ought to have a temporary tax increase to pay for our war. We should. It is the right thing to do. But, no, we will let it go and let somebody else worry about it the next time around—the new President.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I would note as I begin how much I appreciate Senator VOINOVICH and his passion for America in trying to introduce responsibility in spending and taxes. We don't always agree on everything, but he is a man of principle and dedication to his country.

Mr. President, the amendment I will be asking my colleagues to consider tomorrow deals with a growing problem that we have in America. It has to be confronted completely before long. It is the alternative minimum tax. This is a tax that after you figure what you owe on your income tax return and you have taken all your deductions, you have to calculate your taxes again and you may have to file under the alternative minimum tax and pay more taxes. That was an idea conjured up before I came to the Senate to capture rich people who weren't paying enough taxes. Maybe it had some resonance to it, but it has fallen very hard now on the middle class, and it is very dramatic.

We in this Congress have become addicted to the money the alternative minimum tax brings in. We have decided, though, that we can't allow millions of middle-class people to be burdened with a new and higher tax, so we have tried to fix it. We did what was called the AMT patch—a patch. It wasn't a complete fix, it was a Band-Aid, and it would do a lot. Actually, it has done considerable. Without a patch next year, about 23 million people will be subjected to the tax, but with the patch, 17 million of those will not. They will be dropped out of AMT. Seventeen million people will be saved from that.

I just want to say, first of all, the real solution, as everyone knows, is tax simplification. We need to do that, but we have no real momentum at this mo-

ment in the Congress in either House or in either party or by the President. Those of us not on the Finance Committee sometimes wonder why we don't have more proposals for tax simplification, but we don't. It is going to happen sometime, sooner rather than later.

So the patch helps. It raises the AMT exemption level, the amount of money, the floor to which you get caught with, and that has helped some. But the real truth that I must share with my colleagues is that the result has not been fair. It is not a principled way to deal with the people being caught by the alternative minimum tax.

In 2006, for example, 7.4 percent of married people with children paid higher taxes under the AMT, while 1 percent of singles paid the AMT. Think of that. This tax, the way it is calculated and the way it is put together, it has fallen incredibly hard, over seven times as hard, on married people with children as it does on single taxpayers. Why is that so? Well, when you calculate your alternative minimum tax, you can't use your personal exemptions. You can't use that personal exemption of \$3,400, and you can't claim your children as exemptions.

So I would first say one of the most valuable things this country has are the parents out there, some single moms, working their hearts out every day to raise and educate the next generation of young people who are going to lead this country.

So the alternative minimum tax I have believed for some time has penalized people with children. We have had a marriage penalty and now we see with the AMT, we are actually taxing children, making it even more expensive for young families to have children.

So I think my amendment does the right thing. It achieves a very similar result as the patch but is more principled, more cued to what is in the national interests, and more fair.

First, it treats children and personal exemptions correctly. You still get your personal exemption under the AMT and exemptions for your dependents in your household. Under this plan as I have offered it, 87 percent as many people will not have to file an AMT return as would under the patch—almost the same, 13 percent less, but very close to the same number. But astoundingly and importantly, it costs a lot less. It would save in terms of tax revenue lost \$82 billion over 5 years. It would be a lot less expensive in terms of tax cost.

This \$82 billion could help us contain the deficit. It could help us fund the expiring tax cuts that have allowed us to have a low-tax economy that has led to such terrific growth in our economy, would provide some of the money we could use for that, and it would be good for the economy in a way that I am afraid this unprincipled approach to patching the AMT does not. There would be less focus on high income, high tax States. I come from a lower

tax State, a poorer State, a poorer State with a lower average income than the average in the United States. We are doing a lot better, and I am proud of that, but we still are below the national average in a number of different ways. Our State would not benefit much at all under the patch.

Let me show my colleagues this chart. This is a rather astounding chart. These are the percentage of taxpayers who paid the AMT by State in 2005. In my home State of Alabama, it was 0.8, eight-tenths of 1 percent. Less than 1 percent paid any AMT. But in New York, with a good bit higher average income, 6 percent paid—6 percent of the people paid it. The numbers are high in other States. Mississippi is low at .9, and the Dakotas are .8 and .6. Indiana is 1.0; West Virginia, .9. The lower income States are not going to benefit as much under the kind of patch we are talking about. Most of the benefits of the patch will be transferred to only a few States for a lot of different reasons. One is because they have higher taxes which cannot be deducted under the AMT.

So I would say what we need to do is to do better. By having the exemptions allowable under the AMT calculation, we would benefit people more fairly around the country, although not a complete fairness. It is still going to be a tax that dramatically shifts benefits to higher income, higher tax States. There is no doubt about that. But this is at least a step in the right direction, and it helps real people. My excellent staff person, Dr. Andrew Barrett, talks about a professor he knows, Christopher Wolfe, who has 10 children. He is getting whacked by the AMT.

I think a person who is pouring his heart and soul into raising a large family and trying to do the right thing by them should not lose their tax exemptions and have to pay a higher tax than somebody who didn't have that.

I hope we can have a good vote on this tomorrow. I think it is the right thing. As we go forward, we are going to have to talk about this more. The more I study it, the more convinced I am that this is not a good way to handle tax policy in America, this AMT.

I ask unanimous consent that Senator ORRIN HATCH be listed as a cosponsor on that legislation.

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I will sum up. I am a member of the Budget Committee. One of the things you see as you watch these budgets go through here and we discuss them and debate them and it sounds like a lot of politics and hot air and partisanship. But the real truth is that a budget is a defining instrument for a party. A budget tells what your priorities are, what direction you want to take the country in. I am not sure we have ever had a budget since I have been here—well, maybe a few in the beginning but certainly not in the last several years of my tenure—that was passed on anything other



than a party-line vote, at least in the Budget Committee.

Once again, the budget that came out of this Budget Committee, now that we have a Democratic majority, passed with all Democratic votes and no Republican votes. Last year, the budget that passed out was passed by all Republican votes and opposed by all Democrats. But they were in the minority at that time. I used to think, well, why can't we just get together and work these things out. Perhaps we can at some point. Perhaps we will have a break in this cycle. But right now, it seems that the budget defines us and our differences. What is it we agree on? What is it we disagree on? Where do we want to take the country? And where does somebody else not want to go?

Let me mention a few things about this budget. It is a spending budget. The President proposed a rather substantial increase in discretionary spending; but our Democratic colleagues passed a budget that adds \$18 billion more in nondefense discretionary spending than the President asked for. It brought it up to a total increase in nondefense discretionary spending of over 6 percent—I think it is 6.1-percent growth in spending.

Well, what is the cost of living? What is the CPI, the inflation rate? It is about 2.3 percent. So this budget increase, in a time of war, in a time when entitlements are raging out of control, is not a frugal budget; it is a spending budget. You should not be spending almost three times the inflation rate if you want to have any kind of responsibility in spending. We don't have to spend three times the rate of inflation to keep the country from collapsing. The country is not going to collapse if we had a flat budget or if we cut 3, 4, 5 percent, if you want to know the truth. The Republic will still be standing.

But, no, we have to fund these programs, these ideas, and these visions that utilize money and runs up the total. So they have shoved through a budget that increases it substantially. Last year, we passed, on a party-line vote, a proposal that would have contained, by about 1 or 2 percent over 5 years, the growth in entitlement spending. Senator JUDD GREGG worked this in. He believed in it passionately. He believed we could now, early on, before we reach a fiscal disaster in the future, control some of these spending programs. He had a modest cut in the growth—growth only—of Medicare. I think it was like 45 percent growth to 46 percent growth. How about that? Do you think we can sustain that? It got to the floor and all of the Democrats opposed it and several Republicans opposed it, and it failed. We could not even contain the growth by 1 percent.

So all last year, in this last election, my Democratic friends, were out railing at President Bush for spending wildly. They claimed that Republicans were irresponsible on spending, and

here they go coming back with this budget. Did it have any effort or did it display any movement whatsoever to contain the growth of entitlement spending? Zero. It didn't attempt to confront that issue. I think that is a mistake. We have had a lot of complaints that we have to do something, but when it came down to the time to produce a budget, over the objection of Senator GREGG and others, they had no interest in that.

Well, what about taxes? We didn't have any savings on the spending side. We had an increase on spending. What about taxes? They say this is not a raising-taxes budget, that it doesn't raise taxes, don't worry about that. We have not voted to raise taxes. Let me tell you what they did do. They created a system and a mechanism—or at least the majority did when they passed this budget—that is going to put us in a position where we are going to raise taxes, and I am going to explain it to you as simply as I possibly can. The budget adds four points of order. A point of order calls for a supermajority vote to carry out some act. They said you cannot have tax cuts unless several things occur, and the only way you can have those tax cuts, if those things don't occur, is override a budget point of order, and that takes 60 votes, not 50. So what about the existing tax cuts—the capital gains reductions, the marriage penalty elimination, the dividends reduction? What about reducing the tax rate for the lowest income workers who pay Federal taxes by 33 percent, from 15 to 10 percent?

Well, they came up with a proposal that says you cannot even extend those tax cuts that have been in place for a number of years and begin to expire in the next couple of years. Those cannot be extended without being able to overcome the budget points of order. To do so, the most logical thing is to cut spending. So if you cut spending enough to pay for a tax reduction, a tax reduction that is already in place—and some have been in place for over 5 years—if you don't cut spending sufficient to “pay for the lost revenue,” according to these estimates, then you cannot undo it without 60 votes.

When we passed those tax reductions, it was virtually party line, although several Democrats, including Ben Nelson, voted with us, but one time it was a tie vote. Another time it was one or two votes. These were razor thin, the low fifties. By putting in a 60-vote point of order, it is not going to be possible to extend the existing tax cuts, the reduction of the rates, capital gains. They estimated, for example, that capital gains reductions would cost the Treasury \$5 billion. As it turned out, capital gains, after being reduced, have resulted in increases to the Treasury of \$133 billion. If you sell a piece of property and you have to pay 20 percent on the profit, you might not do it. If you are thinking about selling stock and you say, wait a minute, it has grown in value and you are going

to have to pay a 20 percent tax on that, you may say I will just hold it. At 15 percent, people say, OK, I will pay that.

We have had an interesting time of more sales of property and assets subject to capital gains, and we increased revenue after the tax rate was reduced. I wish to say to you that this budget has put us in a position that I don't see how it is possible that we can extend even the existing tax reduction. Those tax reductions have spurred this economy. They were enacted during a time when we had difficulties. It is important to note that when President Bush took office, the Nasdaq, the high-tech stock market, had fallen 50 percent. The first quarter he took office was negative growth. In fact, the last month of President Clinton's term was negative growth. President Bush inherited an economy in serious trouble. Then 9/11 hit and we were in a recession. It could have been a long one, but it turned out not to be. It bounced back quickly, and a big reason is he reduced taxes; the economy grew and picked up the slack and began to grow.

Two years ago, the revenue coming into the U.S. Treasury increased 15 percent over the previous year. Last year, the revenue coming in—this is money actually in the Federal till—went up 12 percent over the 15 percent. This year, they are predicting that revenue to the Federal Treasury will be up almost 10 percent over last year's 12 percent. That is fabulous growth. What should we do? We ought to contain Federal spending. We ought to keep those tax cuts in place, not to make somebody rich, not just to let them keep more money—money that they earned—but because it is good for our economy, because we are a free market economy, and we are a group of people who believe in individual responsibility—not like the Europeans, who are semi-Socialist, if not Socialist, who deeply believe in higher taxes, more regulation, bigger government, and more social welfare.

That is not our heritage. We have a heritage of free, responsible, individual Americans, whose goal and ideal is to take care of ourselves, but we will help those who need it when they need it.

I wish to say this budget defines a lot of who we are. I think it defines a different vision for what is best for America. It has been that way for most of the time I have been in the Senate, and it looks like we are at it again this year.

I feel strongly we ought not to go and slide and move toward the big government, high taxes, and social welfare system of the Europeans. They say: Well, it has not made the taxes go up; we have a budget and the Finance Committee can fix this and they can do whatever they want to do. They have a lot of freedom.

But with the points of order in the budget, I submit to you that we have a problem. I submit to you this Democratic budget that came out of the

committee is similar to this torpedo on this chart.

Democrats can say they have not raised taxes yet, but they have launched that torpedo right at this thriving, vibrant American economy. The torpedo is named “tax increases” and they are on the way. That is a fact. I don’t see anything that is going to intercept that torpedo because the vote tomorrow will put us on a road we cannot get out of. It is going to put us in a situation where the votes will not exist to cut taxes, and we are going to allow even existing tax reductions to phase out, and taxes will jump, and it will amount to the largest tax increase in American history, from what the experts tell us.

It is late. This is an important point and an important time for our country. When we pass a budget, it doesn’t do a whole lot. A budget basically has a couple of things it does. It sets the total level of spending. That level has been raised over what the President has asked for. It creates a mechanism that could allow us to extend tax cuts for less than 60 votes, or do other revenue changes for less than 60 votes. But the budget we are passing is going to put us into a situation where we will increase spending and we will be put on a road to increase taxes.

I think that is a wrong direction for our Nation, and I doth protest.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:42 p.m., adjourned until Friday, March 23, 2007, at 9 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 22, 2007:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN C. ROOD, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, VICE ROBERT JOSEPH, RESIGNED.

##### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES. (NEW POSITION)

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. MARTIN E. DEMPSEY, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### To be major general

BRIGADIER GENERAL MARI K. EDER, 0000  
BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIAM H. GERETY, 0000  
BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL F. HAMM, 0000  
BRIGADIER GENERAL GEORGE R. HARRIS, 0000  
BRIGADIER GENERAL STEVEN J. HASHEM, 0000  
BRIGADIER GENERAL ADOLPH MCQUEEN, JR., 0000  
BRIGADIER GENERAL MAYNARD J. SANDERS, 0000  
BRIGADIER GENERAL GREGORY A. SCHUMACHER, 0000  
BRIGADIER GENERAL MICHAEL J. SCHWEIGER, 0000  
BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD J. SHERLOCK, JR., 0000  
BRIGADIER GENERAL DEAN G. SIENKO, 0000

##### To be brigadier general

COLONEL MARCIA M. ANDERSON, 0000  
COLONEL DOUGLAS P. ANSON, 0000  
COLONEL WILLIAM G. BEARD, 0000  
COLONEL WILLIAM M. BUCKLER, 0000  
COLONEL ALFRED B. CARLTON, 0000  
COLONEL ROBERT G. CATALANOTTI, 0000  
COLONEL MICHELE G. COMPTON, 0000  
COLONEL JOHN C. HANLEY, 0000  
COLONEL KATHERINE P. KASUN, 0000  
COLONEL ROBERT W. KENYON, 0000  
COLONEL KAREN E. LEDOUX, 0000  
COLONEL PETER S. LENNON, 0000  
COLONEL CHARLES D. MARTIN, 0000  
COLONEL GARY A. MEDVIGY, 0000  
COLONEL SAMUEL T. NICHOLS, JR., 0000  
COLONEL JAMES D. OWENS, JR., 0000  
COLONEL JEFFREY E. PHILLIPS, 0000  
COLONEL LESLIE A. PURSER, 0000  
COLONEL DAVID W. PUSTER, 0000  
COLONEL DANIEL I. SCHULTZ, 0000  
COLONEL MICHAEL R. SMITH, 0000  
COLONEL JEFFREY W. TALLEY, 0000  
COLONEL MEGAN P. TATU, 0000  
COLONEL NICKOLAS P. TOOLIATOS, 0000  
COLONEL JAMES T. WALTON, 0000

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. GEORGE J. TRAUTMAN III, 0000

##### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. HAROLD D. STARLING II, 0000

##### IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 211:

##### To be lieutenant commander

KIRSTEN R. MARTIN, 0000  
PATRICK A. ROPP, 0000  
RICHARD V. TIMME, 0000

##### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED CAREER MEMBERS OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR PROMOTION WITHIN AND INTO THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE TO THE CLASSES INDICATED:

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR:

EDWARD W. BIRGELLS, OF TEXAS  
CARLEENE HOPE DEI, OF FLORIDA  
MICHAEL TILESTON FRITZ, OF WYOMING  
WILLIAM A. JEFFERS, OF FLORIDA

CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR:

STEPHEN F. CALLAHAN, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT FRANCIS CUNNANE, OF FLORIDA  
ALEXANDER DICKIE IV, OF TEXAS  
KARL FICKENSCHER, OF NORTH CAROLINA  
STEPHEN M. HAYKIN, OF WASHINGTON  
JANINA JARUZELSKI, OF NEW JERSEY  
ELISABETH A. KVITASHVILI, OF VIRGINIA  
DAVID E. MCCLOUD, OF FLORIDA  
KEVIN J. MULLALLY, OF TEXAS  
GARY WILLIAM NEWTON, OF FLORIDA  
HERMANIA B. PANGAN, OF VIRGINIA  
SUSAN G. REICHEL, OF VIRGINIA  
DENISE A. ROLLINS, OF MICHIGAN  
MARILYNN ANN SCHMIDT, OF VIRGINIA  
ELZADIA WASHINGTON-DANAUX, OF TENNESSEE  
JACK WINN, OF FLORIDA  
ANDREA J. YATES, OF FLORIDA

##### PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES FOR PERSONNEL ACTION IN THE REGULAR CORPS OF THE U.S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE SUBJECT TO QUALIFICATIONS THEREFORE AS PROVIDED BY LAW AND REGULATIONS:

##### To be assistant surgeon

SUNEE R. DANIELSON  
MARY E. EVANS

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL SPECIALIST CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

##### To be lieutenant colonel

MELISSA W. JONES, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

##### To be lieutenant colonel

BARBARA J. KING, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

##### To be colonel

JAMES F. BECK, 0000  
KEVIN S. MCKIERNAN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 3064:

##### To be colonel

DANIEL L. HURST, 0000

##### To be lieutenant colonel

EMMANUEL R. BONNECARRERE, 0000  
LARRY D. CHRISTOPHER, 0000  
SAMUEL H. FISTEL, 0000  
JUAN M. LOPEZ, 0000

##### To be major

JOHN G. MARKLEY, 0000  
JACQUELYN OHERRIN, 0000  
ADAM H. SIMS, 0000  
GEORGE T. TALBOT, 0000

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be lieutenant colonel

EDUARDO A. ABISELLAN, 0000  
CHRISTOPHER C. ABRAMS, 0000  
JOHN K. ADAMS, 0000  
TED A. ADAMS, 0000  
JOHN C. ALLEE, 0000  
CHRISTOPHER W. ALLEN, 0000  
JOSEPH T. ALLENA, JR., 0000  
GEOFFREY M. ANTHONY, 0000  
VINCENT D. APPLEWHITE, 0000  
JOHN ARMELLINO, JR., 0000  
STEPHEN P. ARMES, 0000  
MITCHELL K. ARNZEN, 0000  
JOHN B. ATKINSON, 0000  
STEPHEN C. AUGUSTIN, 0000  
TERRY L. BAGGETT, 0000  
PAUL D. BAKER, 0000  
RAYMOND G. BAKER, 0000  
SCOTT A. BALDWIN, 0000  
CRAIG P. BARNETT, 0000  
JOHN M. BARNETT, 0000  
TIMOTHY E. BARRICK, 0000  
MICHAEL E. BARRY, 0000  
STEPHEN R. BECK, JR., 0000  
PATRICK A. BECKETT, 0000  
MARC A. BEGIN, 0000  
DOUGLAS C. BEHEL, 0000  
THOMAS J. BEIRKACH, 0000  
MARLIN C. BENTON, JR., 0000  
DAVID BERNATOVICH, 0000  
WILLIAM C. BERRIS, 0000  
CHARLES N. BLACK, 0000  
CHAD A. BLAIR, 0000  
RUSSELL A. BLAUW, 0000  
BRET A. BOLDING, 0000  
RICHARD J. BORDONARO, 0000  
TODD V. BOTTOMS, 0000  
MATTHEW C. BOYKIN, 0000  
ROBERT J. BRACATZ, 0000  
ROBERT G. BRACKNELL, 0000  
DAVID P. BRADNEY, 0000  
RONALD C. BRANNEY, 0000  
TERRY L. BRANSTETTER, JR., 0000  
IAN D. BRASURE, 0000  
ROLLIN D. BREWSTER III, 0000  
PETER J. BROWN, 0000  
ROBERT J. BRUDER, 0000  
JOHN H. BRUGGEMAN, JR., 0000  
TIMOTHY R. BRYANT, 0000  
VICTOR J. BUNCH, 0000  
KENNETH A. BURGER, 0000  
HEATHER M. BURGESS, 0000  
RUSSELL C. BURTON, 0000  
SHAWN P. CALLAHAN, 0000  
MICHAEL J. CALLANAN, 0000  
RONNIE T. CARSON, 0000  
MICHAEL A. CARSON, JR., 0000  
JENNIFER E. CARTER, 0000  
MELVIN G. CARTER, 0000  
TODD M. CARUSO, 0000  
MICHAEL S. CASEY, 0000  
WALTER D. CERKAN, 0000  
ERIK L. CHRISTENSEN, 0000  
IAN R. CLARK, 0000  
WILLIAM P. CLARK, 0000  
TIMOTHY L. CLARKE, 0000  
ERIN D. COADY, 0000  
JAIME O. COLLAZO, 0000  
STEPHEN G. CONROY, 0000  
SAMUEL C. COOK, 0000  
MATTHEW D. COOPER, 0000  
ROBERT D. COOPER, 0000  
EDITH W. CORDERY, 0000  
GUY R. COURSEY, 0000  
IAN D. COURTNEY, 0000  
KENNETH L. CRABTREE, 0000  
BRIAN E. CRANE, 0000