

Who is going to stand and speak for the future against the processes the Congress uses today to fund and grow the Government, not worrying about how we pay for it in the future? Will you? Will you challenge this process? Will you say enough is enough? Will you do your part as a citizen of this country to make a difference, to hold people accountable here, rather than let the continued culture—and I call it a culture which actually the majority party ran on. It is a culture of corruption. When you do for you and steal from those who are weak and have no access or ability to pay it, that is corruption. It is morally corrupt. It is a process by which we undermine the very foundation upon which our country has become strong. If we continue it, what we will see is a weakened nation.

We now have \$70 trillion of unfunded liabilities for Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. Think about that for a minute. Go figure out how many zeroes are associated with \$1 trillion. If you had everyone who was worth more than \$1 billion in the world sell all of their assets tomorrow and give every bit of that to the U.S. Government, it wouldn't even pay the interest for 1 year. How is it we can be going down this road? How is it we can be turning our backs on the principles that made us great as a nation—the idea of personal responsibility even applied to Senators, and accountability, and transparency. We are going to hear a lot of stories about what is and isn't happening with this bill over the next 3 or 4 days, but the question I hope the American people will ask themselves is where is the money coming from? Where is the money coming from? If it is not in a pot somewhere and if it is not saved, somebody is going to have to pay for it.

This money is coming from the big Visa card of the Federal Government. We are going to "cha-ching" and we are going to say: Grandchildren, you have to pay for this war in Iraq, plus another \$19 billion, because we don't have the courage to hold this Government accountable. We don't even have the courage to hold ourselves accountable. We don't have the courage to eliminate the duplication, the fraud, and the waste that accounts for over \$200 billion every year in this \$3 trillion budget. There is no courage here to face that. We can do oversight hearings, and we have done so. Senator CARPER and myself did 46, more than any other committee of Congress, over the last 2 years. What we found was almost \$200 billion of either duplicative programs, wasteful programs, or outright fraud. Yet where is the Congress offsetting those with this bill? No. It is too hard work. You might offend somebody. The next election is more important than the next generation. Being here is more important than doing what is the best thing for our Nation.

So I hope as we approach this bill, the American public will ask that ques-

tion about where the sacrifice comes from to do this. Where does the sacrifice come from? Unfortunately, it is going to come from the next 2 generations. It is hard to identify what that means, but with \$9 trillion of actual outstanding debt we have now and the \$70 trillion of unfunded liability, it doesn't take a great imagination to understand how that might impact our children and grandchildren, with high interest rates, lack of ability to afford a college education, inability to own a home, buy a new car. All of those things are coming as we continue to steal the future from our children and our grandchildren. The big government credit card. It is only available because there is a lack of backbone and spine in the Congress to do what is necessary to give the American people true value from their Government. It is hard. A lot of people get upset. But I would much rather stand here and try to change it now than try to explain to my grandchildren why we didn't change it, why we didn't do that.

I have some hope the American people are starting to wake up to the budgetary gimmicks and processes the Congress uses. When they really awaken, what they are going to do is change who runs this place. It is going to be real citizen legislators. It is going to be people who care about the future more than they care about today. It is going to be people who care about a heritage that continues to be and create and hold forth the greatest experiment in freedom that has ever been. Without that change, as Will Durant said:

Great societies are never conquered from without until they rot from within.

This is part of the rotting process we are going to see over the next 5 days in the Senate. If people summon courage, summon long-term viewpoint, summon sacrifice of giving up of themselves, whether it be position or power so we can create something better, the country will be all the better for that. If we don't, there won't be a headline that says: "Grandchildren hurt by supplemental bill," but it doesn't mean they won't be. The fact is they will.

It is interesting the accounting that Washington uses. Last year the official number on the deficit was \$175 billion, but the real number, the amount the debt went up, was \$360 billion. If you are at home and you have a checkbook and you spend \$175 more than you had in the checkbook, but at the end of the year you charged another \$200 on top of it, you really spent it all, and you went into debt for that whole amount. But we don't do what national accounting standards say. We play a game. We take the Social Security money and we lessen the effect of what we are doing through Social Security and 30 some other trust funds such as the inland waterway trust fund and several others, and the retirement of the employees of the Federal Government that is not funded, and we add all that back and we make it look better than it is.

The idea behind a half lie is a whole truth, but it is not. A half truth is a whole lie.

So my hope is when we have this debate on this bill, this \$121 billion bill, America will say: Wait a minute. Why aren't you paying for it? Why aren't you trimming some of the fat? Why aren't you trimming some of the problems? Why aren't you doing that? Because it is hard. That is not a good enough reason to undermine the future of this country.

Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to come and speak this evening and the staff staying here.

Mr. President, I note 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask that morning business be closed.

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

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' HEALTH, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY ACT, 2007—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be considered as original text for the purpose of further amendments, and that no points of order be considered waived by virtue of this agreement; further, that the pending Cochran amendment remain in order, notwithstanding this agreement.

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

The amendment (No. 641) was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I 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 assistant 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 the debate on Calendar No. 84, H.R. 1591, the emergency supplemental 2007 appropriations bill.

Harry Reid, Robert C. Byrd, Jack Reed, Patrick Leahy, B.A. Mikulski, Byron L. Dorgan, Christopher J. Dodd, Dianne Feinstein, Richard J. Durbin, Chuck Schumer, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Boxer, Herb Kohl, Jay Rockefeller, Joe Biden, E. Benjamin Nelson, Daniel K. Akaka, Ted Kennedy.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

S. CON. RES. 21

AMENDMENT NO. 589

Mr. KYL. The fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2007 budget resolutions included an importation reserve fund for drugs imported from countries “with strong safety laws.” Yet the Dorgan-Snowe amendment omits that language. Does the Senator from New Hampshire agree that under the Dorgan-Snowe amendment, the term “safe importation” means from countries “with strong safety laws”?

Mr. GREGG. Yes. The term “safe importation” means importation only from countries with strong safety laws. The additional language “with strong safety laws,” which was included in last year’s budget, was redundant, but the absence of those words does not alter the meaning, in my opinion. “Safe importation” refers to the importation of prescription drugs from countries that require the review of drugs for safety and effectiveness by an entity of the government of the country; that require the methods used in and the facilities and controls used for the manufacture, processing, and packing of drugs in the country to be adequate to preserve their identity, quality, purity, strength, and efficacy; that require the labeling and promotion of drugs to be in accordance with the approval of the drug and whose valid marketing authorization system is equivalent to the systems in the United States.

GENOMICS AND PERSONALIZED MEDICINE ACT

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for S. 976, the Genomics and Personalized Medicine Act of 2007, which my distinguished colleague from Illinois, Senator OBAMA, and I introduced on March 23, 2007. Senator OBAMA introduced this legislation last year. We have worked together on some revisions, and I am proud to join him in cosponsoring the legislation this year.

I believe this legislation will help improve the quality and safety of health care by providing a better understanding of what causes certain diseases. Through a coordinated research initiative and safer genetic tests, patients and doctors will be empowered

to make more informed decisions about medical treatments.

This bill will advance the study of human genes and their functions to better predict patients’ susceptibility to certain diseases or conditions and better customize drugs and medical treatments to meet patients’ unique needs. By facilitating genomics research, fostering a capable genomics workforce, and encouraging the development of high quality genetic tests, patients will be better informed about the medical care they need.

I am proud that North Carolina is a leader in genomics and personalized medicine research. Duke University’s Institute for Genome Sciences and Policy and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s Institute for Pharmacogenomics and Individualized Therapy are both conducting significant research efforts in this area and support a stronger Federal focus on genomics. This legislation will increase Federal support for initiatives at Duke and Chapel Hill—a win-win for North Carolina and patients.

Specifically, this bill establishes an Interagency Working Group at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to pull together and accelerate genomics research by developing standardized terminology and establishing quality standards and guidelines for the collection, processing, and storage of genomic samples and data. It advances genomics research by establishing a national biobanking distributed database that collects and integrates genomic data to simplify pooled data analysis. The bill also develops biobanking initiatives at academic medical centers across the country, including biobanks containing biological specimens. It will improve genetics and genomics training by developing model training programs, residency curricula and teaching materials, and by integrating genetics and genomics into clinical and public health practice by developing health professional guidelines.

The bill will also encourage drug sponsors and device companies to develop companion diagnostic tests, and it will improve Federal oversight and regulation of genetic tests by identifying which tests require review and which agency—the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services or the Food and Drug Administration—should have oversight over specific categories of tests. It requires the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to evaluate direct-to-consumer marketing of genetic tests to which consumers have direct access and to educate the public about genomics and its applications. It also asks the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to assess the clinical utility and cost-effectiveness of companion diagnostic tests that guide prescribing decisions.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BURLINGTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, this spring, the new community health center in Burlington, IA, officially opened for business. Having secured funding for the center and attended the groundbreaking ceremony last June, I know how important this health care facility is to Burlington and the surrounding communities. At long last, Des Moines County has a permanent, unified medical and dental clinic, which has been sorely needed for many years.

This is a truly unique community health center. It is housed on the grounds of Southeastern Community College, and there is an agreement between the CHC board and the community college to allow nursing and health aide students to do some of their training in the center. This gives the center an edge in recruiting staff, and it gives students hands-on training opportunities right there on campus. Clearly, this is a win-win-win arrangement for the center, for the community college, and for the entire Burlington community.

I salute Ron Kemp and others who had the vision to create this new community health center, and the persistence to transform their vision into bricks and mortar. The facility is welcoming, modern, and well-equipped. The staff members are truly an inspiration. They have a special passion for their work, and take pride in the fact that they are providing first-rate health care to underserved communities.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., used to say that “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?” The staff members at the community health centers of Southeast Iowa have answered that question in powerful ways. They have committed themselves to providing high-quality health care to all comers, regardless of ability to pay. All are welcomed equally. All are served with professionalism and excellence. As chair of the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, I am 100 percent committed to securing appropriate funding for community health centers all across America. One thing I know for certain: Every dollar Congress appropriates for centers like the one in Burlington is a dollar spent wisely and frugally. It never ceases to amaze me how their staff members are able to do so much—and to serve so many people—with such limited resources.

I dare say that no one in the health care profession faces greater challenges than those who choose to work in community health centers. These challenges include chronic illness, cultural and linguistic differences, geographical barriers, and homelessness, to name just a few. Nothing stops these dedicated professionals.