

“(32) \$850,000,000 for State and Local Programs for regional grants and technical assistance.

“(33) \$15,000,000 for Research, Development, Acquisition, and Operations for air cargo research.

“(34) \$39,000,000 for Research, Development, and Operations for non-container, rail, aviation and intermodal radiation detection activities.

“(35) \$820,000,000 for Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund for influenza pandemic.

“(36) \$170,000,000 for State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance for discretionary grants.

“(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the following provisions of this Act shall be null and void:

“(1) Any provision relating to the Federal minimum wage and any related changes to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

“(2) Sections 2704, 2705, and 2706, relating to SCHIP funding.”.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the Chair wishes to inform Members that the Committee on Small business and Entrepreneurship will hold a public markup entitled, “Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2007” on Thursday, March 29, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in room 428A Russell Senate Office Building.

The Chair urges every Member to attend.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on armed services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in open and possibly executive session, to consider the following nominations: Claude M. Kicklighter to be Inspector General, Department of Defense; James R. Clapper, Jr., to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; S. Ward Casscells, MD, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; and William C. Ostendorff to be Principal Deputy Administrator, National Nuclear Security Administration.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to examine competition and consumer choice in sports programming.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Committee on Fi-

nance be authorized to meet during the session on Finance on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on “Opportunities and Challenges in the U.S.-China Economic Relationship.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at a time to be determined as soon as a quorum is obtained during the scheduled Committee Hearing, in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to consider Subcommittee Assignments for the 110th Congress.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing on the Employee Free Choice Act during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in SD-430.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing on ensuring safe medicines and medical devices for children during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at 1 p.m. in SD-430.

PRESIDING OFFICER. without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room 418 of the Russell Building to conduct an oversight hearing on VA-DOD Cooperation and Collaboration on Health Care Issues.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on “oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation” on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, room 106.

The Honorable Robert S. Mueller III, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, Washington, DC.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to

meet during the session of the Senate on March 27, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at 3:30 p.m., to receive a briefing on special operations command's global operations.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Fay Peng, a detailee with the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and Gary Reese of the Appropriations Committee staff be granted floor privileges during consideration of H.R. 1591, the emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Jeremy Weirich, a detailee to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, be granted floor access for the duration of the Senate debate on the 2007 emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

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

NOTICE: REGISTRATION OF MASS MAILINGS

The filing date for 2007 first quarter Mass Mailings is Wednesday, April 25, 2007. If your office did no mass mailings during this period, please submit a form that states “none.”

Mass mailing registrations, or negative reports, should be submitted to the Senate Office of Public Records, 232 Hart Building, Washington, DC 20510-7116.

The Public Records office will be open from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the filing date to accept these filings. For further information, please contact the Public Records office on (202) 224-0322.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to the agreement entered in regard to debate on Wednesday, the phrase “without intervening action or debate” be deleted.

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

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 997 AND S. 1001

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding there are two bills at the

desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the first time en bloc.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 997) to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for human embryonic stem cell research.

A bill (S. 1001) to restore Second Amendment rights in the District of Columbia.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading en bloc, and I object to my own request en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read a second time on the next legislative day.

FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 126.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 126) designating April 2007 as "Financial Literacy Month."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am pleased I have submitted a resolution designating April of this year as Financial Literacy Month. I thank my cosponsors, Senators DODD, CLINTON, COCHRAN, DURBIN, KOHL, KENNEDY, MENENDEZ, SCHUMER, INOUE, STABENOW, CARDIN, LEVIN, CRAPO, DEMINT, FEINSTEIN, BAUCUS, THOMAS, LINCOLN, ALLARD, and ENZI. I am glad to work once again with my colleagues in a bipartisan manner to advance financial and economic literacy for all Americans.

As we enter into the month of April, I wish to recognize those organizations that released information last April shedding light on financial literacy in our country. This includes Junior Achievement's annual poll of teenagers on issues of personal finance, the Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy's survey of the financial literacy of high school seniors, and the Employee Benefit Research Institute's Retirement Confidence Survey. These surveys present deeply troubling figures that underscore the need for increased financial literacy. For instance, while 84 percent of teens with credit cards reported paying off their balance in full each month, 16 percent admitted that they were just making the minimum payments according to the Junior Achievement poll. Further, the Jumpstart survey found that most high school seniors failed a test about credit cards, retirement funds, insurance, and other personal finance basics, and the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that despite modest savings, over two-thirds of Americans are confident in their retirement. In addition to these valuable surveys, I would like to acknowledge the biennial Survey of the States published by the Na-

tional Council on Economic Education. It was last released in 2005 and provided a useful update on the status of financial and economic education nationwide.

The resolution I have submitted today designates April 2007 as Financial Literacy Month, and highlights the need to promote financial literacy. To this extent, I would like to mention a few efforts that give a sense of the variety of approaches being taken to highlight financial and economic education. Here in Washington, the National Foundation for Credit Counseling will award a winner for its national poster contest later in the month. With a theme of "Plant the Seed of Saving to Grow Your Future," the contest encourages first through twelfth grade students to start thinking about how to best manage their finances. On public television, a new show, called "What's up in Finance?," created by station WNET in New York City, will premiere this April. It will help to make financial and economic education more accessible to young adults and introduce them to the range of job opportunities in finance and economics. In Santa Barbara, California, the Money Camp, in coordination with Junior Achievement and BizWorld, will host a Financial Literacy Training Intensive program. The event is intended to be the first of an annual event to provide advanced training to professionals in the area of financial education. In New Jersey, the state departments of Education and of Banking and Insurance are coordinating with banks and credit unions to bring staff from government and financial institutions who will make presentations on budgeting, saving, and credit at high schools in the State. I applaud these and other efforts taking place in April to address the need for greater financial literacy among Americans.

Increased financial and economic literacy can help people navigate around the countless pitfalls found in the marketplace. Consumers with a variety of credit histories can easily find credit in many different forms. Lenders' aggressive marketing campaigns encourage families to take on substantial debt for indulgences and luxuries, which may be harmful if families are already saddled with debt and not saving toward an education or retirement nest egg. Taking on substantial or additional debt that they cannot effectively pay back is irrational, but abusive marketing efforts have resulted in unprecedented levels of borrowing.

Although the availability of credit has grown dramatically, the understanding of financial matters has not. Consequently, we are presented with a number of worrisome statistics. During the last 2 years, Americans have on average spent more money than they make. The last year this occurred was in 1933 at the end of the Great Depression. Moreover, the household debt service ratio, which gives a sense of the proportion of disposable income people

are using to pay off their debt, increased to record levels again in 2006. These findings suggest a serious problem exacerbated by the fact that most workers have not calculated how much they need to save for retirement, even if they believe they are behind schedule in their retirement.

As policymakers, we need to focus on these issues year round. However, focusing on Financial Literacy Month in April means that we have a designated part of the year when we can reassess our efforts to highlight those that worked and improve on those that have not. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 126) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 126

Whereas the personal savings rate of people in the United States declined from minus 0.5 percent in 2005 to minus 1.0 percent in 2006, making 2005 and 2006 the only years since the Great Depression years of 1932 and 1933 when the savings rate has been negative;

Whereas the 2006 Retirement Confidence Survey conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute found that only 42 percent of workers or their spouses calculated how much they need to save for retirement, down from 53 percent in 2000;

Whereas consumer debt exceeded \$2,400,000,000,000 in 2006;

Whereas household debt reached a record \$12,800,000,000,000 in 2006;

Whereas, during the second quarter of 2006, a record high of 14.5 percent of disposable personal income went to paying the interest on personal debt;

Whereas over 1,000,000 individuals in the United States filed for bankruptcy in 2006;

Whereas nearly half of adults in the United States are not aware that they can access their credit reports for free;

Whereas, in a 2006 survey, the Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors scored an average of only 52.4 percent on an exam testing knowledge of basic personal finance;

Whereas approximately 10,000,000 households in the United States do not have accounts at mainstream financial institutions such as banks or credit unions;

Whereas expanding access to the mainstream financial system will provide individuals with less expensive and more secure options for managing their finances and building wealth;

Whereas the 2004 Survey of the States compiled by the National Council on Economic Education found that only 17 States require an economics course to be offered to high school students;

Whereas quality personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and to become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;

Whereas increased financial literacy empowers individuals to make wise financial