

came to Washington with small business experience, and I hope to continue working in the business sector. The challenge, as I see it, is for future Congresses to protect the freedom that continues to create opportunity for us and future generations and to ensure that we have a secure America.

May God bless America, and may God bless Congress's future endeavors.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

INMATE TAX FRAUD PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 7082, which was received from the House.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7082) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to disclose certain prisoner return information to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 7082) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXTENDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COM- MISSION

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6296, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6296) to extend through 2013 the authority of the Federal Election Commission to impose civil money penalties on the basis of a schedule of penalties established and published by the Commission.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the

table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 6296) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

LET OUR VETERANS REST IN PEACE ACT OF 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 778, H.R. 3480.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3480) to direct the United States Sentencing Commission to assure appropriate punishment enhancements for those involved in receiving stolen property where that property consists of grave markers of veterans, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 3480) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES ORGAN TRANSPLANT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, tragically, a month and a half ago, we lost a wonderful colleague of all of ours, Stephanie Tubbs Jones—Stephanie Tubbs Jones was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, a wonderful Congresswoman who, whenever you met her, had a big, broad smile on her face. She obviously loved her work on behalf of her country. All of us miss her.

There is legislation called the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Organ Transplant Authorization Act of 2008. I have worked on it in the Senate. I provided a companion bill in the Senate. Yesterday, I worked with Dr. COBURN on the other side to resolve any differences. I understand it is still being reviewed. My hope is that this legislation will be enacted today. Let me describe the importance of this legislation.

We have more than 99,000 Americans right now awaiting organ transplantation. They are on a waiting list to find an organ. In fact, two-thirds of those on the waiting list are waiting because they suffer from end-stage renal disease, and they are waiting for a kidney transplant. About 6,000 who are on that waiting list will die this year. We know how to save them, but

they will die because they did not get a transplant—a kidney, heart, lung. They will die.

I have worked on this issue for many years. I recall some long while ago I worked on legislation that required every tax refund that went out to the American people in that year to be accompanied by a little sheet that told you how you could become an organ donor, how you could sign up. Seventy million Americans got a little piece of information on how to sign up to become an organ donor. On my driver's license in my wallet, it says "donor." It is pretty easy to do for most Americans.

As I indicated, two-thirds of those on the waiting list are waiting for a kidney. Many will die before they get one. On the day the legislation that informed 70 million people how to become an organ donor passed, I held a press conference with a group of my colleagues. Senator Strom Thurmond came to the press conference. I believe Strom Thurmond was 90 years old then. He came to the press conference to sign a big plaque we had, to sign up as an organ donor at age 90.

You had to know Strom Thurmond to understand the irony. He was a remarkable American, a remarkable Member of the Senate. At age 90, he signed an organ donor card, and here is what he said: When I am gone, I don't know if I have anything anybody wants, but they are welcome to it. That was his notion of an organ donor card, and he signed up.

The fact is, not just in memory of our wonderful colleague, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, but in pursuit of doing the right thing. We can save a lot of lives by passing this legislation. This legislation will authorize an increase in the Federal contribution that has been the same since 1984. The Federal contribution to the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.

The Federal contribution to that network was \$2 million in 1984, and that is what it is today. This legislation proposes an increase in that authorization—not a major increase but an increase that will allow us to do greater work to try to match those available organs with those who desperately need a donation.

The good news is that patients no longer have to wait for someone to die, for example, to get a kidney. Living donations and paired donations have dramatically increased the number of kidney donations every year. That is saving lives and, by the way, saving taxpayers money. The cost of renal dialysis is very high.

I come to the Senate floor today only to say this is a very important piece of legislation for tens and tens of thousands of people in this country who even now are waiting for an organ transplant, some of whom will die before they get it. We can save many lives with this legislation.

My hope is that at the end of today we will have cleared the bill on both

sides and then send it back to the House. They will then clear it tomorrow because it has had a very small change that we negotiated yesterday but not a material change. When we do that, we will have done something very important in terms of organ transplants and the ability to save lives in this country.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Nebraska). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, last night we passed an economic stabilization plan that is intended to protect business, pensions, and jobs. I know from my State of Ohio, all too often I get plant shutdown notifications and applications for shutdown assistance, for worker retraining, for all kinds of responses to economic problems. What we did last night was particularly important because of potential lost jobs. With that bill we are trying to prevent an economic crisis.

Last week, Republican Members of this body, unfortunately, set the stage for another economic crisis. They set the stage for a crisis when they blocked a bill to extend unemployment insurance for millions of Americans and their families. Congress must extend this insurance for Americans. We have a bill to do that. I urge my colleagues to support S. 3507.

My friend from Rhode Island, Senator JACK REED, has introduced this bill that will provide an extension of insurance for all States for 7 weeks, an additional 13 weeks for high unemployment States, which means those States that have an unemployment rate of at least 6 percent.

Think about the conditions, everywhere from Lima to Zanesville, Ash-tabula to Middletown in my State, and States across the country—food prices exploding, energy prices exploding, unemployment benefits running out. If that is not an economic crisis, an American crisis—not just in Chillicothe and Ravenna, it is a crisis all over this State—then I guess I don't know what the word "crisis" means.

Last month's jobs report from the Labor Department showed that for the eighth straight month the country has lost jobs. Eight months in a row we have lost jobs in this country.

Tomorrow we will get the latest report. I am not looking forward to it. Just last week there were 493,000—almost a half million—new unemployment claims filed, the largest number since September 2001. We know what happened that month.

Before that, you have to go back to July 1992 when the Nation's unemployment rate was 7.7 percent. The unemployment statistics, as we know, only count individuals actively looking for work. It may be convenient to characterize the unemployed as lazy, then you don't have to help them. Apparently, that is what my friends on the other side of the aisle are doing who blocked this extension of unemployment benefits. These are working people who cannot find work. These are plant shutdowns in Dayton. These are major layoffs in Mansfield. These are people who simply cannot find jobs in Columbus and Akron and Youngstown and Toledo and Bowling Green and Findlay. These are people all over my State. These are men and women who want to support their families and save for the future. These are people who want to work; they simply can't find jobs in this economy.

These are people such as Terry, in Holmes County, OH, one of the least populous counties. A veteran, after 20 years of service he wanted to return to Ohio, which he did, and get his life and family settled. His company laid off workers this past summer. He has been looking for a job, but employers are simply not hiring. His unemployment insurance ended in February.

These are people such as Patricia from Troy, OH, a small community just north of Dayton in Miami County. In Troy, that part of Ohio—Clinton County, Clark County, Montgomery County, Miami County—that part of Ohio is one of the hardest hit parts of the State and of the Nation. Patricia from Troy put it better than I could. She said:

My husband is just another one of the 334,000 unemployed Ohioans. . . . I would like to know what we are supposed to do without. Are we supposed to go without a roof over our head? Are we supposed to go without food? Am I supposed to go without medication or the medical care I need to survive?

Unemployment compensation is an insurance program, it is not a welfare program. These are people, they and their employers, who paid into this unemployment insurance fund. That is why it is called unemployment insurance. It has been with us for 75 years, since around the time of the beginning of the Great Depression. It matters for people. It helps not just those individuals, it helps to bring money into our community, money that will be spent on the necessities of life, will create economic activity, and will help us in our economic recovery. People all over my State have asked me the kinds of questions that Patricia asked. What am I supposed to do about medical care? How am I supposed to go without food?

These people, Patricia and Terry, are not paid spokespeople. They are not lobbyists. They are watching the news. They are seeing how Wall Street's greed and mistakes have us in this crisis today. They understand intuitively that people on Wall Street betrayed

them. They understand intuitively that people such as one of JOHN MCCAIN's chief economic advisers, Carly Fiorina, was let go as CEO of a major company and was paid tens of millions of dollars as a bonus, as a golden parachute, even though she was fired from this company.

They understand that they have worked hard and played by the rules. What is really amazing about this economic crisis is that the elite in this country tell us over and over: If you work hard, if you play by the rules, then you are going to do all right. You are going to be rewarded.

People in the middle class in this country have worked hard. They have played by the rules. But when they look to Wall Street and the Bush regulators, the Treasury Department, the SEC, the people who were in charge, they have gotten rid of the rules for Wall Street so the cowboy capitalists on Wall Street who don't play by the rules get rewarded handsomely while the middle class in Tiffin, in Cambridge, in St. Clairsville, the middle class in Circleville and Portsmouth, they play by the rules. They don't get rewarded even though that was the promise made by so many people in this country. These are people with real concerns and real families, from Gallipolis to Toledo, Cleveland to Akron, Mansfield to Xenia. They are people who are at the end of the line, and they are not alone.

Across the country, 9.4 million workers are unemployed and looking for work, 2.2 million more than a year ago, the highest figure recorded, as I said, since December 1992, more than 15 years ago. Even September 11 didn't cause this kind of unemployment; 9.4 million unemployed compared to 6 million unemployed in January 2001.

If Congress doesn't act this week, more than 800,000 unemployed people will stop getting their much need checks, including 22,000 people in Ohio.

Last night, this Senate, by a vote of 74 to 25, more than half the members of each party, voted because we had to. We voted. If we did not do this financial stabilization package, we knew that pensions would be threatened, we knew that student loans would disappear or interest rates would go so high they might as well disappear, and middle-class college students would lose the opportunity to go to school. We knew that some small businesses would close and others would have to lay off, costing States such as mine, which are so hard hit already, more lost jobs. We knew that was what was happening last night. That is why we passed that legislation.

The same people in the Treasury Department and the Bush administration who relaxed the rules and betrayed our country, betrayed the middle class, hurt families all over my State—those same people have blocked the extension of unemployment benefits. That is why we are not voting on it today because every time we try, Republican leaders say we can't do unemployment.