

and our chairman Senator INOUYE, and my colleague, Senator COLLINS, for working so diligently on this legislation. It has been a privilege to work with them to craft this legislation which I feel will help protect the public from dangerous products and return consumer confidence to the marketplace.

I recognize the staff on both sides of the aisle who have worked tirelessly on this bipartisan compromise and helped this bill to reach final conclusion.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD lists of both majority and minority staff.

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

MAJORITY STAFF

David Strickland, Alex Hoen Saric, Jana Fong-Swamidoss, Andy York, Price Feland, Mia Petrini, Jared Bomberg, Margaret Cummisky, Lila Helms, Jean Toal Eisen, and Anna Crane.

MINORITY STAFF

Paul Nagle, Megan Beechener, Rebecca Hooks, Peter Phipps, Mark Delich, and Theresa Eugene.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I have a list of people to thank, but because we have Senators who would like to vote and some would like to catch airplanes or get on to further meetings this evening, I will wait on that until after we vote.

I am glad to yield back all time on our side.

Mr. STEVENS. We yield back all time.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4040) to establish consumer product safety standards and other safety requirements for children's products and to re-authorize and modernize the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Mr. PRYOR. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the bill is read for the third time.

The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), the Senator

from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SALAZAR). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 41 Leg.]

YEAS—79

Akaka	Feinstein	Murray
Alexander	Graham	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Grassley	Nelson (NE)
Bayh	Gregg	Pryor
Bennett	Harkin	Reed
Biden	Hatch	Reid
Bingaman	Hutchison	Roberts
Bond	Inouye	Salazar
Boxer	Isakson	Sanders
Brown	Johnson	Schumer
Brownback	Kennedy	Sessions
Cantwell	Kerry	Shelby
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Kohl	Snowe
Casey	Landrieu	Specter
Chambliss	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Coleman	Leahy	Stevens
Collins	Levin	Warner
Conrad	Lieberman	Sununu
Cornyn	Lincoln	Tester
Craig	Lugar	Thune
Crapo	Martinez	Voinovich
Dodd	McCaskill	Webb
Dole	McConnell	Whitehouse
Domenici	Menendez	Wyden
Durbin	Mikulski	
Feingold	Murkowski	

NAYS—13

Allard	Cochran	Kyl
Barrasso	Corker	Vitter
Bunning	DeMint	Wicker
Burr	Ensign	
Coburn	Enzi	

NOT VOTING—8

Byrd	Hagel	Obama
Clinton	Inhofe	Rockefeller
Dorgan	McCain	

The bill (H.R. 4040), as amended, was passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 466, the nomination of Hector E. Morales to be Permanent Representative of the United States to the Organization of American States; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Hector E. Morales, of Texas, to be Permanent Representative of the United States of

America to the Organization of American States.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

THANKING SENATORS AND STAFF

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, we are in a period of morning business. I want to pause for 1 minute and thank all of the cosponsors on this legislation. There was a committee bill and the bill that passed the floor a few moments ago. I thank everybody who helped work on this, even those who voted against it. Many of them offered very constructive suggestions and amendments.

Let me start by thanking Senator COLLINS. She has been fantastic throughout this whole process. Senator HARKIN, Senator KLOBUCHAR, Senator BILL NELSON, Senator SCHUMER, Senator DURBIN, Senator LINCOLN, of course Senator SALAZAR, Senator BROWN, Senator MENENDEZ, Senator CASEY, Senator WYDEN, and even though I don't think Senator McCASKILL was ever a cosponsor, she helped in the last few days on some drafting.

There are two whom I need to single out, and one is Senator TED STEVENS of Alaska, who went to bat and worked through a lot of issues that made this vote today possible, as well as our chairman Senator INOUYE, first because I appreciate very much him giving me the opportunity to manage the bill. He designated me a year ago to try to work on this legislation, and I will always be grateful to him for his leadership and giving me this opportunity.

I also thank members of the staff. We all know we get the credit, we get the publicity, and we are sort of the face, but we could not do this job we do without great staff. So I have a little bit of a long list, but they all deserve some recognition: Alex Hoehn-Saric, David Strickland, Mia Petrini, Jared Bomberg, Melissa Zolkepky, Margaret Cummisky, Lila Helms, and Jean Toal-Eisen.

These are all members of the Commerce staff on the Democratic side. I cannot tell my colleagues—I cannot exaggerate how many hours they put into this legislation.

Then on my staff: Price Feland, Andy York, and many others helped, but those two went the extra mile, especially Price, who was fantastic.

On Senator DURBIN's staff: David Lazarus, Tom Faletti, Dena Morris, and Chris Kang, all of whom helped in many ways.

On Senator REID's staff: Mike Castellano and Mark Weitjen.

On Senator KLOBUCHAR's staff: Tamara Fucile and Katie Nilan.

On Senator NELSON's staff: Chris Day.

Then on the Republican side of the Commerce Committee, I will tell my colleagues they were fantastic and they spent hours and hours and hours working through issues and through this process. They played an important role.

So my thanks to Paul Nagle, Megan Beechener, Mark Delich, Peter Phipps, Rebecca Hooks, and Christine Kurth.

Again, oftentimes the Senators get the credit for things, but we do not give the staff enough credit.

On Senator COLLINS' staff: Asha Matthews was critical, and she was great in helping in many different ways with Senator COLLINS who played a very important part in this legislation.

I thank my colleagues for this week. I know we worked very hard and we were very persistent. But one of the great things about this week is we saw what the Senate can do. We saw if we make up our minds that we are going to do something good for this country, the Senate can do it. We worked together. We kept all the nongermane amendments off the bill. We had several on our side, and there were a few over here. We had more on our side, but we kept all of those nongermane amendments off the bill. We had a spirit of cooperation and collegiality and it was great. It was fun to be a part of it. It reminds me, once again, how great an institution the Senate is.

I again one last time thank all of my colleagues for their support and all the floor staff here for doing all the great things they did to get us where we are today. This is a great day for the Senate and a great day for the American people. Now this bill will have to go to conference and the hard work starts. But I feel confident that we will be able to work with our House colleagues, who worked so hard on their legislation to get something done, and hopefully in the next several weeks, whenever that may be, it will come back to the Senate for the final vote and we can get it to the White House.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

THE BUDGET

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, if one watches the Presidential campaign, one finds that virtually all of those who have run for President and those who remain in the campaign are talking about change, change, and change. While I think each of them may differ with the other as to exactly what they mean by change, what they are picking up is the very serious unhappiness of

the American people in terms of the direction this country is going.

What people perceive and what the candidates are picking up on is that the middle class is shrinking. We have tens of millions of people who wake up in the morning, they go to the gas station, they are paying \$3.20 for a gallon of gas. Home heating oil is soaring. In many cases, the wages of workers are going down. People are losing their health insurance. They are losing their pensions. They are seeing their jobs go to China and other low-wage countries. The people in our country do not feel good about the state of our economy. They want changes. They want to move this country in a different direction. Fundamentally, I believe, what they want is a new set of national priorities.

As my colleagues may know, this afternoon the Senate Budget Committee voted on and passed a new budget. This budget, appropriately enough, rejects President Bush's incredibly bad budget, which continues the process of providing huge tax breaks to people who don't need it and then cutting back on the needs of the middle class and working families in terms of massive cuts in Medicare, in Medicaid, eliminating completely the weatherization program, and cutting back significantly on LIHEAP at a time when the need for heating assistance is greater now than ever before. Altogether, it is a budget which puts money where we should not be putting money and cuts back on those programs which people desperately need.

Next week, as I understand it, the budget will be coming to the Senate floor. We will be debating the budget that was passed by the Budget Committee this afternoon. While I happen to believe the budget we passed was a good budget—certainly a major, major, major improvement over what President Bush gave us we can make significant improvements upon what we passed this afternoon. So I will be offering several amendments. The major one will essentially be asking the Senate to change the national priorities of this country and to begin responding to the millions of working families who

know that something is wrong in America. They know that while poverty increases, while the middle class shrinks, the people on top have never had it so good. They know that ordinary people understand there is something strange when the wealthiest Nation in the history of the world cannot provide quality health care to all of its people; that our infrastructure is deteriorating before our very eyes; that we have the highest rate of childhood poverty in the industrialized world; that all over our country food shelves are being descended upon—not by unemployed people alone, not by disabled people, not by poor people but by people who are working 40 or 50 hours a week and can't afford with their wages to provide the nutrition their families need. People understand there is some-

thing deeply, deeply wrong in this country, and that we have to move in a new direction.

My amendment is very simple. It is going to give the Members of the Senate a very stark choice about whether we want change, about whether we want to move this country in a new direction. This is what it does. It couldn't be simpler. It says that at a time when the wealthiest people in this country have never had it so good since the 1920s in terms of a huge increase in their income, in terms of the fact that we now have by far the most unequal distribution of income and wealth of any major country, where the top 1 percent now earn more income than the bottom 50 percent, what we are saying is that it is time we rescind President Bush's tax breaks that go to people who make at least \$1 million. That is the top three-tenths of 1 percent; 99.7 percent of the people would not be impacted by this amendment. It says: Let us rescind those tax breaks for millionaires and billionaires, and when we do that, we will raise about \$51 billion.

Now, what can we do with that \$51 billion, and what does this amendment include? First, it says that since President Bush has been in office, we have had record-breaking deficits. We now have a \$9 trillion national debt. We are fighting a war we are not paying for, but that our kids and our grandchildren will be paying for. So in this amendment, of the \$51 billion we raise by rescinding tax breaks for millionaires, we are going to put \$10 billion into deficit reduction. That leaves \$41 billion.

This is what this amendment would do. It would provide \$15 billion for special education. The Presiding Officer may remember that some years ago the Congress—the Government of the United States—made a commitment to school districts all over America and said: If you mainstream kids with disabilities, if you put them into public schools, if you treat them as every other kid, we will provide 40 percent of the cost of that special education. That is what the Government said. Unfortunately, the Government did not keep its word.

So what we see in Vermont—and I suspect in Colorado and all over the country—is the school districts are paying enormous sums of money out of local taxes, often regressive property taxes, to fund special education. All over America, what we are seeing is more and more kids, for whatever reason—and that is a long discussion we need to have—are having problems, are being seen as having special ed needs. It is an expensive proposition. We are saying, let's begin to keep our word to school districts all over America. Let's relieve the pressure of local property taxes. Let's put \$15 billion into special education.

In addition, what this amendment would do is provide a \$7 billion increase for Head Start. One of the great scandals in our Nation today is that we