

addressing hunger in our country. The farm bill provides 10 billion additional dollars over 10 years for domestic nutrition programs that help lower income families put food on the table, including \$7.8 billion for the Food Stamp Program, \$1.25 billion for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and \$1 billion for the fresh fruits and vegetables snack program. In Illinois, over the next 10 years, this bill will provide \$373 million in additional funding to help families that haven't been able to outrun hunger.

But with one hungry person in our Nation, hunger will be a problem for all of us. I hope that we will continue to work together to fulfill our duty to end hunger in our Nation and the world.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention the fact that today, June 10, 2008, is National Hunger Awareness Day.

As a founder of the bipartisan Senate Hunger caucus and an original cosponsor of the legislation establishing this commemoration, I believe hunger is an issue that deserves our full attention.

For the past 4 years, my fellow caucus cochairmen Senator SMITH, Senator DOLE, as well as Senator DURBIN and I have executed a food drive in our Senate offices with donations helping those in need in the Washington area. The collection began last month and culminates today National Hunger Awareness Day when we donate the collected goods to needy organizations.

I have worked with my Senate colleagues to draw attention to this issue because hunger and poverty are not just global issues they are so pervasive that we all have some experience with them in our local communities.

Worldwide, 3 billion people—nearly half the world's population—live on merely \$2 per day. In our Nation alone, almost 35.5 million Americans struggle day in and day out to find adequate nutritious food. More than 13 million children live in households that are food insecure.

According to the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance in my home State, approximately 80 percent of supplemental nutrition assistance goes to households with children, many of them in working families, including military families. Older Americans and those with disabilities also depend on these benefits. Every month, nutrition assistance programs enable almost 385,000 Arkansans 13.7 percent of my State's population to purchase groceries for themselves and their families.

As a member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, I worked to address this issue in the recently passed Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, and I am proud the bill aims to reduce food insecurity among our children and our elderly, and others in need. This bill commits \$10.36 billion to continue the fight against hunger. It represents the largest amount of funding for nutrition programs in our Nation's history. One billion dollars is allocated to the Fresh

Fruit and Vegetable Program, which provides free fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income children in schools nationwide. It also expands the senior farmers' market program by \$50 million to help them purchase fresh food at places like farmers' markets and roadside stands throughout the country.

In the coming weeks and months, I encourage my colleagues to become more aware, more educated, and more informed about the effects of hunger and poverty and to find out what impact you can have in your State and in your community. Government cannot do it alone, though.

It has been said: To those to whom much is given, much is required. We must continue to work together to devote our time and resources to organizations in our communities committed to this cause and develop public/private partnerships to combat food insecurity in this country. Hunger is a disease that has a cure. It is our responsibility to strive hard each and every day to eliminate hunger in our country and around the world.

SOMALIA

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, on May 21, 2008, the Senate passed by unanimous consent S. Res. 541, a resolution on Somalia introduced by Senator FEINGOLD. As the new ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs, I wholeheartedly support bringing about change in Somalia to allow for a viable government that will benefit the people of Somalia as well as the entire region.

The United States has a critical interest in establishing a secure and stable government and society in Somalia. I support the U.S. strategy in Somalia and believe that the only way to stabilize the country is through political reform, humanitarian assistance, deployment of African Union forces, and to keep terrorists from seeking refuge in Somalia. It is important that the Senate recognize that it is in the interest of the United States, as well as the entire region, that the sustainable peace in Somalia we seek create a government that does not threaten or seek to destabilize its neighbors or provide safe haven to known terrorists that are a threat to the U.S. and the Horn of Africa.

I also wish to emphasize that it is equally important that the Senate take great care in calling for a timeline for the withdrawal of Ethiopia's troops from Somalia. The resolution calls on Ethiopia to develop a timeline for the "responsible" withdrawal of its armed forces from Somalia. I believe Ethiopia to be in full agreement with this language and would like to withdraw its forces as soon as possible; however, a "responsible withdrawal" requires a replacement to maintain peace and stability and to stop terrorism. I would urge the

African Union to continue sending peacekeeping forces to Somalia so that the Ethiopian forces can withdraw.

Furthermore, I strongly support all efforts that help convince Eritrea to play a constructive role in helping to bring about a stable Somalia. I urge the African Union, the United Nations and other peacekeeping groups in the region to pressure Eritrea to work with its regional partners to bring about peace and stability in Somalia.

CLIMATE SECURITY ACT

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to respond to a statement that Senator PRYOR made on Friday, June 6. On that day, Senator PRYOR rose to express his support for the basic approach that the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act takes to reducing emissions of certain greenhouse gases called hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs. Senator PRYOR praised our decision, in crafting the Climate Security Act, to subject HFCs to a separate cap-and-trade system rather than including them under the same cap with less potent greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide. He expressed his hope that the initial level and reduction rate of the HFC cap could be revised before the bill becomes law. I welcome Senator PRYOR's focus on the Climate Security Act's HFC provisions, and I would like to work with him on that portion of the bill as it moves through the legislative process. I remain interested in increasing the specificity of those provisions while simultaneously expanding the area of consensus among manufacturers of HFCs, distributors of HFCs, manufacturers of equipment that uses HFCs, and the environmental community.

REMEMBERING CONGRESSMAN LIONEL VAN DEERLIN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am honored to remember former Member of the House of Representatives Lionel Van Deerlin, who passed away on May 18, 2008, at the age of 93.

Lionel Van Deerlin, affectionately known as "Van," served in Congress for over 18 years, representing San Diego. His legislative legacy includes a key role in revising the Federal laws to permit California to set tougher emission standards than the rest of the Nation. As chairman of the House Subcommittee on Communications, he actively worked to update the 1934 Federal Communications Act in order to keep up with changing technologies. A leader in ethics, he was among the first congressional leaders to voluntarily disclose his personal finances.

Lionel was born in Los Angeles, CA, on July 25, 1914, and grew up in north San Diego County. He attended the University of Southern California, where he was editor of the *Daily Trojan*, and graduated in 1937. After graduation, he worked in journalism until World War II. Lionel honorably served

our Nation in the U.S. Army, returning to journalism and San Diego after the war.

A gentleman, a statesman, and a friend to all, Van earned the respect of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle. He tirelessly worked on behalf of the people of San Diego. His legacy is substantial in San Diego—he helped to establish the Naval Medical Center San Diego as well as a Veterans' Administration hospital. Lionel's spirit continues in the generations of leaders he mentored and counseled.

After leaving Congress in 1981, Van returned to journalism as a political columnist, first for the San Diego Tribune and later for the Union-Tribune. His columns, which were eagerly read by San Diegans regardless of political party, were remarkable for the clarity and common sense they brought to the political process. As a writer, his chief targets were hypocrisy and vested interests, while his chief passions were American participatory democracy and the San Diego region he knew and served so well.

Van is survived by three daughters: Mary Susan, Victoria, and Elizabeth Louise; two sons: Jeff and John; and four grandchildren.

Our country has lost a remarkable public servant and tutor with the passing of Lionel Van Deerlin. His contributions to the people of San Diego, the State of California, and our Nation should be remembered.

LITIGATION COST DEDUCTIONS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on March 8, 2007, I introduced S. 814. The bill has nine cosponsors: Senators GRAHAM, SMITH, CRAPO, MARTINEZ, LANDRIEU, WYDEN, LEAHY, SALAZAR, and STABENOW. It was included in the energy/business tax extenders package, on which a vote on the motion to proceed failed today.

S. 814, would allow attorneys to deduct reimbursable court costs and expenses—expert witness fees, copying and transcription costs, travel expenses—in the same tax period in which they are paid or incurred. For attorneys paid on a contingency fee basis, the Internal Revenue Service treats these expenditures as “loans” that may be repaid from any award or settlement at the end of the case. For this reason, currently most attorneys may take a deduction only in the same period he recognizes the income from the award—which may be years after the attorney has paid the expense/cost. This is a burden on, and often unfair to, solo practitioners and attorneys in small firms who may have to assume costly loans because they do not have the resources to carry these expenses for multiple years.

In addition, the tax treatment of these expenses is not uniform in all jurisdictions—as some courts have disagreed with the IRS on the current treatment. This is another reason the current rule is unfair and should be changed. Finally, I note that the IRS interpretation is based on State legal

ethics rules about advances to clients that have since been changed.

I voted against cloture on the motion to proceed even though I obviously support S. 814, and although I also support the tax extenders that expired at the end of 2007—including the R&D tax credit, teacher expenses deduction, tuition deduction, and accelerated depreciation for leasehold and restaurant improvements. I also support some tax extenders that are set to expire at the end of 2008—including renewable energy tax incentives.

The main sticking point between Democrats and Republicans is whether temporary extensions of tax relief should be offset with permanent tax increases elsewhere. On April 23, 2008, I, along with 40 other Republicans, wrote to Finance Chairman BAUCUS to support “enacting a 2008 AMT patch and extending the various expiring tax provision without offsetting tax increases.”

The vote was a demonstration by Republicans that they have numbers and that they need to be included in the process of drafting the bill. Republican leadership had no expectation that any Republican amendments would be allowed because of Leader REID's standard operating procedure of filling the tree and filing cloture.

I am told that the leadership on both sides and the chairman and ranking member of Finance will now sit down to discuss the next steps. I think this is a positive development and I will encourage the inclusion in a bipartisan bill of the proposed amendment to the Internal Revenue Code that is embodied in S. 814.

REQUEST TO BE NOTIFIED

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to inform my colleagues that I have requested to be notified of any unanimous consent agreement before the Senate proceeds to the consideration of any legislation that amends the Immigration and Nationality Act. I intend to reserve my right to object to any such request unless legislation to reauthorize the E-verify program run by the Department of Homeland Security is included.

Last week, I introduced legislation to permanently extend the employment verification program, which was created in 1996. This program has been a valuable asset for more than 69,000 employers across the country that want to comply with our immigration laws. This program needs to be reauthorized this year. For that reason, I have asked the minority leader to consult me before any unanimous consent agreement on immigration legislation is considered.

COLLAPSE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD “Letters from Vermont and America.”

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

THE COLLAPSE OF THE MIDDLE CLASS

LETTERS FROM VERMONT AND AMERICA

Dear Friend, As gas and oil prices soared and as the nation slipped into recession, I made a request to Vermonters on my e-mail list. I asked them to tell me what was going on in their lives economically. That was it. Frankly, I expected a few dozen replies. I was amazed, therefore, when my office received over 600 responses from all across the State, as well as some from other states. This small booklet contains a few of those letters.

It is one thing to read dry economic statistics which describe the collapse of the American middle class. It is another thing to understand, in flesh and blood terms, what that means in the lives of ordinary Americans. Yes, since George W. Bush has been in office 5 million Americans have slipped into poverty, 8 million have lost their health insurance and 3 million have lost their pensions. Yes, in the last 7 years median household income for working-age Americans has declined by \$2,500. Yes, our country, for the first time since the Great Depression, now has a zero personal savings rate and, all across the Nation, emergency food shelves are being flooded with working families whose inadequate wages prevent them from feeding their families.

Statistics are one thing, however, and real life is another. The responses that I received describe the decline of the American middle class from the perspective of those people who are living that decline. They speak about families who, not long ago, thought they were economically secure, but now find themselves sinking into desperation and hopelessness.

These e-mails tell the stories of working families unable to keep their homes warm in the winter; workers worried about whether they'll be able to fill their gas tank to get to their jobs; and seniors, who spent their entire lives working, now wondering how they'll survive in old age. They describe the pain and disappointments that parents feel as they are unable to save money for their kids' college education, and the dread of people who live without health insurance.

In order to try and break through the complacency and isolation inside the Washington Beltway, I have read some of these stories on the floor of the Senate. It is imperative that Congress and the corporate media understand the painful reality facing the middle class today so that we can develop the appropriate public policy to address this crisis. We must expand low income home heating assistance, stop oil profiteering and price gouging, and support programs that address the growing crisis of hunger in America. The National Priorities Act (S. 818) that I introduced in this session of Congress is one example of legislation that would address the growing crisis.

Let me conclude by thanking all of those people who have so kindly shared their lives with me through these letters. I know that for many of you this was not an easy thing to do.

BERNIE SANDERS,
United States Senator.

Here are letters from two mothers in Vermont. The first is from a woman in rural area; the second is a single mother in a small city.

We have at times had to choose between baby food and heating fuel.

My husband and I have lived in Vermont our whole lives. We have two small children (a baby and a toddler) and felt fortunate to own our own house and land but due to the increasing fuel prices we have at times had to choose between baby food/diapers and