

provided to kidney dialysis patients. They also provide positive composite rate updates for 2 years until the bundled payment system is created.

All three bills include Medicare reimbursement for six kidney disease education sessions.

All versions of the Medicare legislation also include an expansion of telehealth services to skilled nursing facilities, hospital-based renal dialysis, and mental health centers.

So as one can see, we agree on most all the issues. Unfortunately, there is one issue where we do not agree, and it is standing in the way of getting this legislation signed into law.

H.R. 6331, the House Medicare bill, and the Baucus Medicare bill, include provisions that would reform the Medicare Advantage Program in a way that is unacceptable to both the White House and many of us who support the Medicare Advantage Program and I believe 90 percent of the people who do support that program.

In 2003, I sat through hours of negotiations with administration officials, House Members, and Senate colleagues for days, weeks, and months, including Finance Committee Chairman BAUCUS, to create the Medicare Advantage Program to the Medicare Modernization Act of 2003. Let me remind my colleagues, before 2003, the Medicare Advantage Program, then known as Medicare+Choice, was not working very well, especially in rural parts of our country because the Medicare payments were too low. The Medicare+Choice plans serving Utah simply left because they were in the red. They were not making money and, as a result, Utah Medicare beneficiaries could only be covered by traditional Medicare.

Through the MMA, we finally figured out how to provide choice to Medicare beneficiaries in both rural and urban areas. Medicare beneficiaries in Utah now have a choice in Medicare coverage they did not have before the MMA was implemented.

The biggest difference between the bill before us today and the Grassley Medicare bill is the House Medicare bill, if signed into law, will no longer allow private fee-for-service plans to deem. You are probably asking: What on Earth is deeming? It is quite simple.

Deeming allows beneficiaries who have opted for private fee-for-service plans the ability to see any Medicare provider because these plans do not have to establish networks.

Private fee-for-service plans have provided coverage options to Medicare beneficiaries living in rural areas who previously did not have choice. In other words, the ability to deem has been especially important in rural areas, where it is difficult for network-based plans to persuade providers to contract with them and for employer groups that provide coverage for retirees living in areas across the country.

The elimination of deeming could be the elimination of health care coverage

choices for beneficiaries living in rural areas.

It could also cause certain retirees to lose their health care coverage because employer health plans that provide coverage in all 50 States will cease to exist because they cannot establish networks.

My friends who support this bill will argue they are not cutting the Medicare Advantage Program by eliminating deeming. They also will try to say that the elimination of deeming will not have an impact on health care choices offered to beneficiaries living in rural areas.

I have already been told by one employer in Utah that this provision will force them to stop offering health care coverage to almost 12,000 retirees—12,000 retirees. I am worried it could hurt coverage for beneficiaries in rural areas as well. Quite honestly, we do not know the full impact of this specific policy.

Therefore, I simply cannot support a provision that eliminates deeming for private fee-for-service plans, and that is one of the reasons I am going to vote against cloture.

We must vote against cloture in order to ensure we can begin work on a bipartisan bill that will be signed by the President. We do not need to be wasting our time going back and forth on bills that do not have a chance of becoming law.

Trust me, this bill will not be signed into law because, while the take-it-or-leave-it attitude may work over in the House, it does not work in the Senate.

I urge my colleagues to vote against cloture so we may begin work on a bipartisan bill that will continue to protect choice of coverage for all beneficiaries—and I think that work would take all of 10 minutes—including those living in urban and rural areas and those who are covered through an employer retirement plan.

This motion must be defeated so we can prove to Medicare beneficiaries, Medicare providers, and our House colleagues that bipartisanship is alive and well in the Senate and that we are willing to keep working on this bill until we get it right.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 6331 AND H.R. 2642

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, notwithstanding rule XXII, and the pendency of a motion, that a motion to proceed to Calendar No. 836, H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act, be considered made by virtue of this agreement and there be 60 minutes of debate on the motion, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed, with the mandatory quorum

waived; that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed, then all postcloture time be yielded back, the motion to proceed be agreed to, and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the bill; that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, without further intervening action or debate; that if cloture is not invoked, then the motion to proceed be withdrawn and the bill returned to the calendar; that upon the disposition of H.R. 6331, the Senate then consider the message from the House with respect to H.R. 2642, the Supplemental Appropriations Act; that by virtue of this consent being agreed to, the motion to concur in the House amendments to the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to the bill be considered made; that Senator COBURN be recognized to raise a point of order and that there be 15 minutes of debate, with 5 minutes each for COBURN and the majority leader and the Republican leader, or their designees; that upon the use of that time, a motion to waive the Budget Act be considered made and the Senate then vote on the motion to waive; that if the waiver is successful, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to concur; that upon disposition of the motion to concur, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc, with no further motions in order; provided further, that if the motion to waive fails, then this agreement be null and void.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. I, obviously, am not going to. I ask my good friend, the majority leader, if he thinks we need 60 minutes of debate. Is there some chance time will be yielded back?

Mr. REID. We would be happy to limit that—the supplemental appropriations bill we are talking about?

Mr. McCONNELL. No.

Mr. REID. On Medicare. I say to my friend, I think Senator HATCH wants to finish his statement, Senator DURBIN is here. I think we should do the 60 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. There was no objection to the request; is that right?

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

MEDICARE IMPROVEMENTS FOR PATIENTS AND PROVIDERS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6331, the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Debbie Stabenow, Jeff Bingaman, Patty Murray, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Thomas R. Carper, Mark L. Pryor, John F. Kerry, Dianne Feinstein, Richard Durbin, Daniel K. Inouye, Bill Nelson, Bernard Sanders, Jon Tester, Jim Webb, Frank R. Lautenberg.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 6304

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, July 8, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with Senator MCCONNELL, all postcloture time be yielded back and the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 827, H.R. 6304, be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and the Senate then proceed to the consideration of the bill; that once the bill is reported, the only amendments in order be the following: Dodd-Feingold-Leahy amendment to strike immunity; a Specter amendment which is relevant; a Bingaman amendment re: staying court cases against telecom companies; that no other amendments be in order; that debate time on the Bingaman amendment be limited to 60 minutes, equally divided and controlled in the usual form, and 2 hours each with respect to the Dodd and Specter amendments, equally divided and controlled, with 10 minutes of the Dodd time under the control of Senator LEAHY; that upon the use or yielding back of all time, the Senate proceed to vote on the pending amendments; there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled in the usual form prior to each vote; that after the first vote in the sequence, succeeding votes be limited to 10 minutes each; that upon the disposition of all amendments, the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate then proceed to vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the bill, with the mandatory quorum waived; that prior to the cloture vote, there be 60 minutes plus the time specified below for debate time, equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with 10 minutes under the control of Senator LEAHY, with an additional 30 minutes under the control of Senator FEINGOLD, with an additional 15 minutes under the control of Senator DODD; further, that if cloture is invoked on H.R. 6304, then all postcloture time be yielded back, and without further intervening action or debate, the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended; further, that it be in order to file the cloture motion on the bill at any time prior to the cloture vote, with the mandatory quorum waived, notwithstanding rule XXII, if applicable, and that if applicable,

postcloture time be charged during this agreement.

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

FISA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008—
MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 6304, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008.

E. Benjamin Nelson, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Thomas R. Carper, Mark L. Pryor, Bill Nelson, Dianne Feinstein, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Barbara A. Mikulski, Claire McCaskill, Kent Conrad, Daniel K. Inouye, Mary L. Landrieu, Joseph I. Lieberman, Sheldon Whitehouse, Evan Bayh, Ken Salazar.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant 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.

FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT
OF 2008

Mr. REID. Mr. President, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives with respect to H.R. 3221.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the message with respect to H.R. 3221.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A message from the House of Representatives to accompany H.R. 3221, to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move that the Senate concur in the amendments of the House striking titles VI through XI to H.R. 3221, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the cloture motion.

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the amendments of the House, striking title VI through XI, to the Senate amendment to H.R. 3221, the Foreclosure Prevention Act.

Harry Reid, Christopher J. Dodd, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Debbie Stabenow, Jeff Bingaman, Ken Salazar, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Max Baucus, Patty Murray, Barbara A. Mikulski, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Bill Nelson, John F. Kerry, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Benjamin L. Cardin, Frank R. Lautenberg.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote occur at 5 p.m., Monday, July 7, with the hour prior to the cloture vote equally divided and controlled between the chair and ranking member of the Banking Committee, and that no other motions be in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Chairs hears none, and it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me say this. I had one Senator come to me today and say: You know, why don't we spend more time here? We set out to accomplish certain things. We haven't been able to accomplish everything we wanted, but I say to everyone here, the procedures we just now went through would take, if we followed every step of the procedure of this body, well into late next week. So people should just be satisfied that we are going to be able to have whatever the action is on Medicare, whether it passes or doesn't. At least we are going to have final action on that now, we are going to be able to complete the supplemental, and we have a time set to complete FISA early next week, with people having all the opportunity they want to talk about how great it is and how horrible that bill is.

We also have a pathway so that Senators SHELBY and DODD can complete the housing bill. I think it is a good piece of work. Was it as smooth as I would like? No. As I said when I came here this morning, when I gave the example of going out with my dad as a boy and gathering wood, and we would get stuck in those washes and those back tires would spin and spin, that vehicle was going a thousand miles an hour but going nowhere; it was stuck in sand and nothing would happen, and we would work and put stuff under the tires and push it, and it took a long time but we always got it unstuck. Well, we would have gotten unstuck here; it is just a question of when, and the "when" is now.

So I say to the individual who asked me about this, is this something that is real pleasant to watch? Probably not. But for this country, the Senate has been doing this for 230-some-odd years, and that is how it works. We have heard a lot of times, as we watch the legislative process in action, that it is like watching the stuff they put into the hot dog: it is probably not too pleasant to watch, but it tastes pretty good when you chomp on it. That is what this legislation is all about.

I think we are going to have the ability to work on issues important to the