

staff members, most of whom make a starting wage of \$8.50 per hour. We offer health insurance to staff who work at least 24 hours a week. We don't have a Cadillac plan, we provide just basic coverage. We believe in doing this [because] many of our staff members are part-time workers and have to work two other jobs just to pay for bills, groceries, and utilities. We recently started negotiations with our health insurance carrier for our 2010 rates. We were informed that we may have an 84 percent increase over last year's rate.

That is almost double what they had last year.

We were told the increase was due, in part, because one staff member [out of 250] had a heart attack in the past year and another staff member is being treated for renal failure. We were shocked as we already pay close to \$500,000 per year for our coverage. We could now be facing an additional \$420,000 just to cover [the same number of] employees. You would expect in a staff of 250 that someone would have an illness, yet we are being severely penalized for being responsible and offering coverage to our workers and their families.

That is what is happening. This is not a tiny, small business, but in a small business, so often one person, two people, three people get an expensive illness. Sometimes the insurance company will cut them off individually or as a group. Other times the increase for insurance will be so much that people such as Tony may not be able to offer insurance to their employees. This is so important. These are low-income people making \$8.50, \$9 an hour doing work that most people in this Chamber wouldn't be willing to do, getting paid such low wages. At least they offer health insurance. That may be gone. That is why reform is so important. That is why the public option is so important, so we don't see this kind of profiteering by the insurance industry.

Rebecca from Summit County writes:

I have two sons with severe ADHD. They were both diagnosed at an early age, due to their extremely impulsive behavior. Each son requires three prescriptions per day to enable them to go to school and get through their daily life. With the medication and periodic exams with a neurologist, they are doing well. My employer pays over half the cost of our premiums, but my portion of the premium is \$600 per month out of my paycheck. I'm worried that soon my employer will be unable to continue our coverage. As it is, my husband and I don't go to the doctor because we simply can't afford it. Even though it might not seem like a life-or-death situation, it really is. Without their medication, my sons have serious illnesses with impulsiveness that could be dangerous. If they don't complete their education, they won't be able to support themselves in the future.

Nothing scares a parent more than leaving behind children who can't support themselves because of some kind of illness. I don't think anything terrifies parents more than that.

I know our situation isn't unique, so I hope something can be done to help all Americans.

Rebecca's is another plea for help from this institution. It is simply unconscionable for us not to move forward.

Let me close talking about Virgil from Akron. He is a retired 30-year vet-

eran of the Akron Police Department and has to spend one-third of his retirement pay on health insurance premiums. Virgil retired in 1999, when the premium for him and his wife Marlene was \$45. Only 11 years later, Virgil and Marlene pay monthly premiums of \$700—from \$45 to \$700. This is a retired 30-year veteran police officer who served his community as a law enforcement official for three decades. Struggling with high out-of-pocket medical expenses, Virgil and his family resorted to pill cutting to make their prescriptions last longer. Virgil and the dedicated police officers, firefighters, teachers, nurses, and public servants deserve better than. They deserve health reform now.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of New Mexico). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FRANKEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I stand to urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to support having a vote on Vitter amendment No. 2466 to the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill.

Unfortunately, the majority leader and others have been working quite hard to block that vote. I believe this issue demands attention, demands focus, demands reasonable debate, and a vote.

What is this issue? This is the revised version of my amendment to that appropriations bill:

None of the funds provided in this Act or any other act for any fiscal year may be used for collection of census data that does not include a question regarding United States Citizenship.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my amendment.

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

(Purpose: To provide that none of the funds provided to the Census may be used for collection of census data that does not include a question regarding status of United States Citizenship)

On page 110, line 7, strike "activities." and insert "activities: *Provided further*; That none of the funds provided in this Act or any other act for any fiscal year may be used for collection of census data that does not include a question regarding United States Citizenship."

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, the point is very simple. A big decennial census is coming up next year. Under the current plans of the Census Bureau, we are going to count everybody in the

country—and that is fine—but we are not going to distinguish, we are not going to know the difference between citizens and noncitizens. I think that is not fine, I think that is crazy, and I think it will lead to some dangerous results.

First of all, the whole purpose of a census is to give us maximum information, maximum tools we can use in a whole host of policy debates and Federal programs. Certainly, it is useful to know both the overall number of persons in the country but also the sub-categories of citizens and noncitizens. That is particularly relevant because the immigration debate is important, and we need to get our hands around that issue.

Secondly, and even more important, it is important because I believe when we use the census for congressional redistricting for determining how many U.S. House seats each State gets, we should count citizens, but we should not count in that context noncitizens, including illegal aliens.

I think it is crazy, nutty, and I think the average American certainly agrees that we would determine how many U.S. House Members every State gets to represent it in the Congress and count noncitizens, including illegal aliens. I do not think the Founding Fathers set up a democracy—in many ways one of the most important democratic institutions in history in the U.S. Congress—to represent noncitizens. Why are we not adding in the entire population of France or Belgium or Brazil? For obvious reasons, because this is a democracy to represent citizens of the United States.

Of course, we can only avoid that in terms of congressional reapportionment if we know the subcategories of the count, citizens versus noncitizens. I urge all of my colleagues to support having a vote on this Vitter amendment to the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill and then, of course, when we get to a vote—and we will—hopefully, on this bill but sometime in the near future—I assure you, we will—to support in a bipartisan way this amendment.

Let me make two final points. First of all, I have made every reasonable attempt to get this vote. I had two other amendments on the list for votes on this bill that were important to me and I think are important substantively. I have told, through our representatives, the majority leader and his office that I will forgo votes on those two other amendments. We need a vote on this crucial amendment.

Secondly, I remind particular Senators from eight States that their States will lose representation in the U.S. House if we count noncitizens versus if we were to do congressional reapportionment only counting citizens.

I believe everybody should be focused on this issue. I believe everybody should support my commonsense position. But surely the Senators from

those eight States would want to vote for their States' self-interest. Those States are Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, North Carolina, and, of course, my State of Louisiana.

Again, I particularly appeal through the Chair to the Senators from those eight States—Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Louisiana. Obviously, for the very interests of your State, please support getting a vote on the Vitter amendment. Please support the Vitter amendment. Your State's representation in the U.S. House hangs in the balance. Of course, that means please do not vote for cloture on the CJS bill until we can have such a vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, we are about 10 minutes away from a vote on the energy and water conference report. I wanted to put forward one very cogent reason for voting against this bill.

This bill hides from the American people information to which they are entitled. There was clearly accepted by unanimous consent an amendment that said the reports in that bill will be made available to all Senators and all the citizens of this country—and rightly so—unless it had a national security implication for not exposing that information.

The best government is the one that is the most open. The best government is the one in which people have trust. By bringing this bill to the floor out of conference and dropping the transparency amendment, the transparency section where one can actually see what is going on in Washington, where one can actually see where their money is being spent, where one can actually see the information that a select group of Senators see but other Senators do not, as well as the American people—if, in fact, one can see that, that breeds accountability in Washington.

If my colleagues, in fact, vote for this conference report, what they are saying is they want to keep the American people in the dark; they do not want them to see what we are doing; they do not want them to see how we are doing it; they do not want them to see why we are doing it. They want the elite position of making a judgment without being held accountable.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this conference report.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3183, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Conference report to accompany H.R. 3183, an act making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2:15 p.m. today, all postclosure time be yielded back and the Senate then proceed to vote on adoption of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Appropriations Act; further, that no points of order be in order.

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I will vote to approve this conference agreement to provide over \$33 billion for a variety of energy and water infrastructure projects and programs. Michigan is surrounded by the Great Lakes, and the funding provided in this conference report to the Army Corps to maintain the navigational infrastructure and to clean up and protect the Great Lakes is especially important. Michigan also will benefit from the investments in clean energy technologies and energy efficiency programs provided in this bill that will help create a more sustainable economy while producing quality jobs.

The conference report includes important funding for a wide range of energy research and technology development at the Department of Energy, including advanced vehicle technologies, hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, wind and solar energy technologies, and biomass and biorefinery systems. This conference report also includes funding for critical areas of science including high energy and nuclear physics, biological and environmental research, and advanced scientific computing research. Research and technology development in these groundbreaking areas of energy and science will continue our nation's advancement toward greater use of technologies that will reduce our dependence on oil, reduce our carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions, and increase our reliance on our home-grown renewable resources. Federal Govern-

ment support of research and development in these technology areas will also help ensure that our companies remain competitive in the global marketplace and ensure that the U.S. remains on the competitive edge of technology development and scientific discovery.

I am particularly pleased that the conference report includes \$12 million in funding for research and development, conceptual design and engineering for the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams, FRIB, to be built at Michigan State University. Inclusion of this funding in the conference report is critical to moving forward with this facility. Under the Department's current plans, engineering work would continue in fiscal year 2011, with initial design work beginning in fiscal year 2011 and continuing into fiscal year 2012. Construction of the facility would begin in fiscal year 2013. MSU has solid and well-known expertise in the field of rare isotopes and nuclear physics, with the largest nuclear physics faculty in the nation and a nuclear physics graduate program ranked number two in the U.S., second only to MIT. MSU is currently the home of the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory, NSCL, which is the most advanced rare isotope accelerator in the U.S. and is the largest nuclear science facility on a university campus. FRIB is the next generation rare isotope facility and the Department of Energy's decision in December 2008 to select MSU for FRIB is an indication of the university's preeminence in this field.

I am also pleased that the conference report includes funding for several important energy projects in Michigan that will advance the development of technologies including advanced batteries and energy storage systems, plug-in hybrid vehicles, solar and photovoltaic systems, wind energy, biomass, and energy efficiency. Michigan companies and universities are well-positioned to contribute to the development of these advanced technologies, offering both significant expertise in these technology areas and a highly trained workforce to carry out the manufacture and production of these technologies.

About 180 million tons of goods are transported to and from Great Lakes harbors and ports each year, providing fuel to heat and cool homes and businesses, limestone and cement to build roads and buildings, iron ore to produce steel, and grain to feed our Nation and for export overseas. Throughout the Great Lakes, there are significant dredging and other operation and maintenance needs so that freighters can safely deliver these vital commodities. There is a significant backlog in the work required to maintain the Great Lakes navigational system. The Army Corps estimates there is a backlog of 17 million cubic yards of material that needs to be dredged in the Great Lakes, which is estimated to cost to about \$200 million, to restore