

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(8)(A) A State meets the requirements of this paragraph if the State has in place a voluntary job placement program under which an individual—

“(i) is paid weekly unemployment compensation;

“(ii) is placed with an employer who provides training to the individual in order for the individual to acquire new skills;

“(iii) may work up to 24 hours a week for a 6 week period with such employer at no cost to such employer; and

“(iv) may receive payments to cover transportation, child care, dependent care, and needs-related payments, that are necessary to enable an individual to participate in the program.

“(B) An individual participating in job placement program under subparagraph (A) shall not be considered to be an employee engaged in employment for purposes of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).”

SA 2724. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 3548, to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 to provide for the temporary availability of certain additional emergency unemployment compensation, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 27, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

“(IV) EXCEPTION FOR LOSSES FROM SPECIFIED FRAUDULENT ARRANGEMENTS.—Subclause (I) shall not apply to any qualified loss resulting from a specified fraudulent arrangement (within the meaning of Revenue Procedure 2009-20).

CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 331, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 331) congratulating the United States Military Academy at West Point on being named by *Forbes* magazine as America's Best College of 2009.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the resolution.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 331) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 331

Whereas *Forbes* magazine has named the United States Military Academy at West Point as America's Best College for 2009;

Whereas the United States has had a military presence at West Point since the Revolutionary War because of its strategic position overlooking the Hudson River;

Whereas General George Washington selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko to design West Point's fortifications in 1778;

Whereas West Point is the oldest continuously occupied military post in the United States;

Whereas President Thomas Jefferson established the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1802;

Whereas West Point has educated many of the United States Army's commissioned officers;

Whereas West Point instructs 4,400 cadets per year in academics, military tactics, physical fitness, and leadership;

Whereas approximately 1,000 cadets graduate each year and are commissioned in the United States Armed Services;

Whereas 2 Presidents of the United States, 74 Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, 88 Rhodes Scholars, 33 Marshall Scholars, and 28 Truman Scholars have graduated from West Point;

Whereas in addition to academics and military training, West Point offers extracurricular activities that include the Eisenhower Hall Theatre and 115 athletic and non-sport clubs; and

Whereas West Point offers a well-rounded, highly regarded education to the next generation of the Nation's leaders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the United States Military Academy at West Point on being named by *Forbes* magazine as America's Best College for 2009;

(2) supports West Point's mission “to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country and prepared for a career of professional excellence and service to the Nation as an officer in the United States Army”; and

(3) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Superintendent of West Point.

COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 332, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 332) commemorating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the division of Europe, and the beginning of the peaceful and democratic reunification of Germany.

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

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 332) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 332

Whereas, between 1945 and 1961, more than 2,500,000 people, or 15 percent of the total population of the German Democratic Republic (referred to in this preamble as “East Germany”), left the country to pursue economic opportunity and enjoy the benefits of liberty and political freedom in the Federal Republic of Germany (referred to in this preamble as “West Germany”) and other countries;

Whereas, at midnight on August 13, 1961, East Germany sealed its border with West Berlin and began construction of a 100-mile barrier that would later include bunkers, watchtowers, searchlights, minefields, barbed wire, concrete walls, and armed guards, to prevent the emigration of the people of East Germany to seek freedom and opportunity elsewhere;

Whereas, during the 28 years the Berlin Wall existed, approximately 5,000 people successfully fled East Germany for West Germany and West Berlin, more than 75,000 people were imprisoned for attempting to leave East Germany, and an estimated 1,200 people were killed trying to escape;

Whereas Presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan declared their vision of Berlin as a free city, in the heart of a free Germany;

Whereas Chancellor Willi Brandt of West Germany and others demonstrated great foresight in their pursuit of “Ostpolitik”, a policy of engagement that lowered tensions and ultimately helped undermine the authoritarian rule of the wall-builders;

Whereas more than 22,000,000 Americans served in the Cold War, supporting the efforts to bring military, economic, and diplomatic pressure to bear in the defense of Germany and the West, and ultimately helping more than 400,000,000 people gain their freedom from the bondage of communism in the Soviet Bloc;

Whereas the Solidarity Movement in Poland demonstrated that the will of a people united could not be silenced by winning a surprise landslide victory in elections to the Contract Sejm in June 1989;

Whereas, on August 23, 1989, Hungary officially opened the border between Hungary and Austria, resulting in 13,000 refugees from East Germany fleeing into West Germany through Hungary;

Whereas, on September 4, 1989, after prayers for peace in the Nikolai Church, crowds that would eventually number in the hundreds of thousands gathered in Leipzig, East Germany, to repeatedly and peacefully protest the authoritarian regime of East Germany and to demand basic freedoms;

Whereas, in September 1989, thousands of people in East Germany took refuge in the embassy of West Germany in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in order to emigrate to West Germany and the West;

Whereas, on October 18, 1989, faced with widespread civil unrest and a deteriorating political situation, East German leader Erich Honecker, who had predicted that the Wall “will stand in fifty or a hundred years,” resigned;

Whereas, on November 4, 1989, more than 1,000,000 people gathered in Alexanderplatz in East Berlin and 40 other cities and towns in East Germany to demand free elections and basic civil rights, such as freedoms of opinion, movement, press, and assembly;

Whereas, on November 9, 1989, East German politbureau member Günter Schabowki announced that the government would allow “every citizen of the German Democratic Republic to leave the GDR through any of the

border crossings," and East German leader Egon Krenz promised "free, general, democratic and secret elections";

Whereas thousands of people in East Berlin immediately flooded the border checkpoints at the Berlin Wall and demanded entry into West Berlin, causing the overwhelmed border guards of East Germany to open the checkpoints to allow people to cross into West Berlin;

Whereas, in the days following the fall of the Berlin Wall, hundreds of thousands of people from East Germany freely crossed the border into West Berlin and West Germany for the first time in more than 28 years;

Whereas the Chancellor of West Germany Helmut Kohl and Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher managed the political situation and foreign diplomacy with great tact and in close cooperation with Western allies, leading to the peaceful reunification of Germany as a sovereign, democratic state on October 3, 1990;

Whereas, on November 9, 2009, the people of Germany will celebrate on both sides of the Brandenburg Gate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with the "Festival of Freedom";

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall was one of the milestones of the 20th century, brought about by the actions of many ordinary and some extraordinary people; and

Whereas the fall of the Berlin Wall embodied the end of the division of Europe, the opening of the Iron Curtain, and the triumph of democracy over communism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall;

(2) celebrates 20 years of an undivided Europe, free from the oppression of authoritarianism, with the people of the former communist countries and Western Europe;

(3) honors the service and sacrifice of the people of Germany, the United States, and other countries who served in the Cold War to bring freedom to Central and Eastern Europe;

(4) expresses its appreciation to the people of Germany for their commitment to preserving the dignity and freedom of others in their leadership on international assistance, peacekeeping, and security efforts, including in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Lebanon, Sudan, and off the coast of the Horn of Africa; and

(5) reaffirms the friendship between the Government and people of the United States and the Government and people of Germany.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort Her Excellency Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

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

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, most of us go home every weekend and talk to our constituents. In places such as Mansfield, OH, and all over our States, most of us are hearing a lot about people's problems with health insurance. I come to the Senate floor most nights or days and read letters from people in my State who have had difficulty because of their health insurance situation, and I hear a couple of things over and over. One I hear is that most people are generally pretty satisfied with their health insurance—not the cost but generally their coverage—until they get really sick and then they find out their health insurance isn't as good as they thought it was.

I get letters from people all over my State—from Youngstown, from Toledo, from Bowling Green, to St. Clairsville—that a year ago they would have said they had very good health insurance, but they end up having a baby with a preexisting condition or their health insurance costs are so expensive because of an illness that their insurance is canceled. In some cases, a woman who has a C-section is considered to have a preexisting condition by insurance companies because the next baby would have to be a C-section, and in some cases, even women who have been victims of domestic violence are considered by their insurance companies to be a risk because that is a preexisting condition. If they were abused by their husband or boyfriend or whomever in the household, then it is likely that person will do it again, so that is a preexisting condition, and sometimes they are closed out of their insurance.

A few weeks ago, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee chairman, Senator HARKIN from Iowa—a committee I and about a quarter of the Senate sit on—held a hearing to examine how health insurance companies discriminate against women in the private market. Insurance companies often deny care and charge higher premiums to women. For instance, in the case of a 32-year-old man and a 32-year-old woman with very similar health backgrounds, the insurance premiums for a woman will be significantly more. She will pay higher insurance premiums than the man will pay. We also heard stories about what I just mentioned, that women who have been victims of domestic violence or women who have had C-sections are charged higher rates or sometimes the insurance industry literally rescinds—the industry term is "rescission"—their insurance coverage. That is only one example of how insurance companies make a profit at the expense of people in need.

One of the reasons this legislation is so important is that these kinds of discrimination practices will be banned by our legislation: No more cutting people off due to a preexisting condition, no more cutting people off because they got sick and went over their annual cap or because they are too expensive to take care of; no more discrimination based on geography, gender, or disability. We are going to ban these practices—no more using preexisting conditions, no more caps, no more discrimination—but even with that, it is important that we have a public option—just an option. A public option will say to the insurance industry: We are not going to let you do that anymore. We are going to change the law, but we are going to help to enforce it with this public option.

I commend Leader REID for responding to the support of the Presiding Officer, Senator SHAHEEN from New Hampshire, and many of us who wrote to Senator REID asking him to include the public option in the health insurance reform bill. He has done that. That is a response from many Members of the Senate, and it is also what most of this country wants. In poll after poll, roughly twice as many Americans want to see a public option as don't. A recent physicians poll by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation—certainly a group that has no dog in this hunt—found that 70 percent of doctors want to see a public option because they want to protect their patients. They want to make sure their patients aren't victimized by discrimination, by preexisting conditions, and by losing their insurance and all of that.

It is time for our Nation to get more choices, and the public option does give more choices. In Ohio, one insurance company controls 41 percent of the market. One company controls 41 percent of the market. Two companies control 58 percent of the market. In southeast Ohio, two companies control 85 percent of the market. What does that mean? That means little competition, it means lower quality, and it means higher rates. You put the public option out there, and you give people a choice. They do not have to choose the public option. They can choose Aetna or CIGNA or Medical Mutual—a not-for-profit company in Ohio—or they can choose WellPoint. Put that out there with the public option as a competitor, and you bet these companies are going to behave better.

It is not just an Ohio problem. In fact, in some States it is worse. Two health plans control 80 to 100 percent of the market share in 10 States. Two companies control at least 80 percent of the market in one-fifth of the States in this country. In another 11 States, 2 health plans control 70 to 80 percent of the market. So you have 21 States where 2 companies control at least 70 percent of the market. That is not competition; that is an oligopoly, I guess is the term we learned in high school economics class. But whatever