established a special reserve to be available to any committee funded by this resolution as provided in subsection (b) of which—

(1) an amount not to exceed $4,375,000, shall be available for the period March 1, 2009, through September 30, 2009; and

(2) an amount not to exceed $7,500,000, shall be available for the period October 1, 2009, through September 30, 2010; and

(3) an amount not to exceed $3,125,000, shall be available for the period October 1, 2010, through February 28, 2011.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The special reserve authorized in subsection (a) shall be available to any committee—

(1) on the basis of special need to meet unpaid obligations incurred by that committee during the periods referred to in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a); and

(2) at the request of a Chairman and Ranking Member of that committee subject to the approval of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

SENATOR LEAHY JOINS THE 13,000 VOTE CLUB

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, in the entire history of the U.S. Senate, only eight Senators have cast 13,000 votes. Today, our honorable colleague, Senator LEAHY, has become the ninth Senator to do it.

Mr. President, I congratulate the distinguished senior Senator from Vermont upon achieving this monumental milestone in his life and career. As a 34-year veteran of the Senate, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator LEAHY has already provided invaluable service to his state and our country.

Now he has become a member of one of the most exclusive clubs in our country, ''U.S. Senators who have cast 13,000 votes club.''

As the charter member of this exclusive club, I welcome Senator LEAHY into it.

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY CHEERLEADING SQUADS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the accomplishments of the North Laurel Middle and High School cheerleading squads from the city of London in my home State of Kentucky. Recently, both teams won national championships in the Universal Cheerleaders Association, at competitions held in Orlando, FL.

Both teams overcame setbacks and injuries but still triumphed. Through hard work and dedication, they were able to clinch the national titles for Kentucky. Recently, the Sentinel-Echo newspaper in London, KY, published an article detailing the victories of both teams.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the cheerleaders and coaches from North Laurel Middle and High Schools for their performances in the national competition. I further ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD, as well as the names of the participants and coaches.

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

[From the Sentinel-Echo, Feb. 13, 2009]

LAURELS FOR NORTH LAUREL

(By Tara Kaprowy)

With full police and fire truck escort, marching band fanfare and thousands of students waiting to greet them, North Laurel middle and high school cheerleaders came home wreathed in victory Tuesday. The teams both clinched first place last weekend at the Universal Cheerleaders Association National High School Cheerleading Championship, the be-all end-all of cheerleading competitions.

North Laurel Middle School coach Christy Jones was thrilled.

''It's all the buzz down here,'' she said of the North Laurel wins. ''They loved the girls, they loved the routine.''

North Laurel High School coach Kim Wood was likewise pleased.

''We're celebrating like we've never celebrated before,'' she said.

Wood's team has had a heart-stopping couple of days. The team arrived in Orlando, Fla., a few days before the weekend competition to have time to practice their highly technical routine.

But on the first day, tragedy struck.

''We had one of our strongest bases get injured,'' Wood said. ''She blew her knee out.''

With Lindsey Lewis now forced to the sidelines, it was up to Laura Robinson—who had never even competed before—to step in.

''She was so nervous,'' Wood said.

To incorporate Robinson into the performance, the girls had to adjust their formations and rework the routine, practicing six hours a day to get things right.

''Each girl had to work even harder,'' Wood said.

By the end of the second round of competition, the girls were in seventh place; one of the girls had fallen, which cost the team points. Nevertheless, they advanced to finals. This time, their 2½-minute routine was flawless.

''It was perfect,'' Wood said. ''They were awesome.''

When the winners were being announced, the judges asked the girls to maintain their composure out of respect for the other teams. But Wood said when the runner-up was named—and it wasn't North Laurel—her girls were ecstatic.

''They were bawling and crying and jumping for joy,'' Wood said.

Over in the middle-school competition, the girls were up against the fearsome Mount Pisgah and Houston girls, cheerleaders from two middle schools who finish first and second year after year.

This year, Jones said she was ready for the Tennessee teams, with North Laurel's choreographer crafting a routine that was at the highest level of difficulty. The performance incorporates 13 full-ups, a move in which the girls complete a 360-degree turn before they hit the top of their stunt.

''We do them to one leg, which is even more difficult,'' Jones said.

The girls pulled off the stunts, even though they were also plagued by injuries.

Dani Flannery, who tore the ligaments in her ankle last year, reinjured her leg while in Florida.

She chose to compete anyway.

''She battled back,'' Jones said. ''And she did it with a smile on her face.'

In the end, the NLMS girls pulled off their routine and, by 12 points, were named the champions.

Jones said the win was sweet.

''It's been very difficult to gain respect,'' she said. ''It's kind of the (Tennessee team) club, but we broke into it this year. And they didn't like it.''

Jones said she and her girls are thankful for the support they received throughout the year.

''We are just so appreciative of our principal (David Hensley),'' she said. ''He is so supportive of our program. And our parents, listen, our parents raised the money so every child could come to Florida for free. And the community. Every time they buy a T-shirt or a box of donuts, it lets these girls achieve their dream. I'm so thankful.''

NORTH LAUREL MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

Katie Mays, Caitlyn Adams, Sammantha Tolliver, Maddie Wood, Hannah Robinson, Ashley McCowan, Whitney McCowan, Ryvers Loomis, Meagan Stewart, Hannah McWhorter, McKayla Vaughn, Taylor Hubbard, Dani Flannery, Kristen King, Whitney Reams, Miranda Browning, Savannah Goozeman, Sydney Herrell, Farris Strong, Sherri Gray, Lane Mitchell, Breanna Binder, Morgan Bill, Sammantha Nalley, Kelsey Guidi, Amy Corum, Gabrielle Skript, Addison Woods, Taylor Eversole, Hayley Whitman, Tara McClure, Taylor Hamilton. Coaches: Jamie Winkfein, Sidney Hubbard, Christy Jones.

NORTH LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS

Alex Blair, Bailie Camp, Taylor Forbes, Brittney Hodges, Ashley Hollin, Destiny Inman, Ally James, Kayla Johnson, Mercedes Lester, Whitney Lawson, Lindsey Lewis, Kelsey Maggard, Mackenzie Martin, Brittany Moore, Ashley Partin, Sarah Pennington, Laura Robinson, Jenny Tillery, Gabrielle Woods. Coaches: Kim Wood, Toni Blake Greer.

SENATOR PATRICK LEAHY'S 13,000TH VOTE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Senator PATRICK LEAHY on the occasion of his 13,000th vote.

I have had the privilege of serving on the Senate Judiciary Committee under Senator LEAHY's leadership for more than 10 years. The Judiciary Committee is one of the original standing committees of the U.S. Senate and its role is unique. It is the Judiciary Committee's special charge to ensure that we remain faithful to our Founders' vision of America as a nation of laws.

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, PATRICK LEAHY takes this responsibility very seriously and he has continually demonstrated his fidelity to the rule of law. Chairman LEAHY has repeatedly risen in defense of our fundamental constitutional rights, even when it is not politically popular.

He particularly distinguished himself in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist

attacks. At a time when some were calling for us to sacrifice our rights in the fight against terrorism, PAT LEAHY said that we could be both safe and free.

He worked to include important civil liberties protections in the PATRIOT Act. He led the opposition to controversial Bush administration policies relating to torture, indefinite detention, and the warrantless surveillance of innocent American citizens. He was one of the first Members of Congress to speak out against the Guantánamo Bay detention center. Chairman LEAHY led the fight against the Military Commissions Act. He was particularly eloquent and persistent in defending the right to habeas corpus and he was vindicated when the Supreme Court held that the habeas-stripping provision of the Military Commissions Act is unconstitutional.

Chairman LEAHY has also been a giant in the Senate when it comes to judicial nominations. He has fought to preserve the integrity and independence of our Federal judiciary throughout his career and long tenure on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Despite the highly charged atmosphere that has beset the judicial nominations process in recent years, Chairman LEAHY handled judicial nominations fairly and expeditiously during his chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee under President George W. Bush. In the approximately 3 years in which he chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee under President Bush, 168 of the President's judicial nominees were confirmed. By comparison, during the 4-year period under President Bush when Republicans had a majority in the Senate and chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee, only 158 judicial nominees were confirmed.

Chairman LEAHY also led the fight to enhance the security of Federal judges and courthouses in the wake of several tragic incidents of violence our Nation witnessed in recent years. This record is a tribute to Chairman LEAHY's deep respect for the Federal bench and his commitment to bipartisanship in the advice and consent process.

Senator LEAHY has fought for human rights at home and abroad. As the lead sponsor of the Innocence Protection Act, he has worked to ensure that innocent people are not subject to the death penalty. He has been the foremost champion in Congress in the campaign against antipersonnel landmines, authoring the first legislation by any government to ban the export of landmines.

I want to pay tribute particularly to Chairman LEAHY for creating the Human Rights and the Law subcommittee in January 2007 and for giving me the opportunity to chair this subcommittee during the 110th Congress. I was proud to work with Senator LEAHY in the 110th Congress to enact the Genocide Accountability Act, which makes it a crime to commit genocide anywhere in the world; the Child Soldiers Accountability Act, which makes it a crime and violation of immigration law to recruit or use child soldiers anywhere in the world; and the Trafficking in Persons Accountability Act, which makes it a crime to engage in human trafficking anywhere in the world.

Mr. President, America is fortunate to have Senator PATRICK LEAHY's leadership at this challenging moment in our history. I look forward to working with him as we strive to restore the rule of law at home and to reclaim America's role as a champion for human rights around the world.

ADOPTION INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last year, working together, Republicans and Democrats produced one of the most far-reaching improvements to our Nation's child welfare system in over a decade. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 included a number of policies designed to increase the number of adoptions of special needs children in foster care.

Unfortunately, the Omnibus appropriations bill that the Senate is considering this week includes a provision that overrides the Adoption Incentives improvements included in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

I have been told that it was not the intention of the drafters of the Omnibus appropriations bill to override the improvements to the Adoption Incentives Program and the Democratic leadership intends to correct this problem in the future.

The right thing would be to correct this problem in the underlying bill and I filed an amendment that would have accomplished this. Unfortunately, I was told by the Democratic leadership that they would not allow the bill to be changed at all.

I am not happy that I was not permitted to fix this problem in the omnibus bill. This unfortunate outcome, where real progress in increasing the number of adoptions is potentially jeopardized, highlights the perils of rushing legislation through in a partisan manner and not consulting with the committees of jurisdiction.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank Senator GRASSLEY. We worked together on the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 in what was a model of bipartisan and bicameral legislating. I do not want to see any provisions of that work jeopardized.

While I am certain that our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee in no way mean to jeopardize the adoption incentive provisions of the Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act, I also feel that communication with the Finance Committee would have led to an easy remedy. My staff, working with the Congressional Research Service, caught the error as soon as the language was introduced and made available.

We need to work together toward a solution. I am prepared to introduce legislation to correct the error and preserve the work of the Finance Committee, Ways and Means Committee, and child welfare community.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I do want the members of the adoption community to be assured that I will do everything in my power to make sure this correction is made and that adoption incentive funds are made available. I will be happy to introduce legislation with my partner on the Senate Finance Committee, the chairman of that committee, Senator BAUCUS. We can base the legislation on my amendment to reinstate the adoption incentives improvements.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

I am sure you are fully aware of the impact high gasoline prices is having on Idahoans. A large portion of the population are on fixed incomes that do not rise with inflation or energy costs. Another large portion of the population barely earned enough to feed their families when gas was $1.25 a gallon. Many of those same Americans are still earning the same or slightly better wages, though inflation and higher energy costs have effectively caused a net reduction in their incomes.

Personally, it is hard to find work, I have turned in dozens of applications without even a single interview. So, I decided to get my degree online, since it was out of the question to commute to a campus because of fuel costs. My best friend commuted for his entire two years of community college, roughly 60 miles round trip every day. However, it is prohibitively expensive to do so now. I am also self-employed, doing whatever work I can find, though it never amounts to much more than paying what expenses I do have. Lately I have been selling firewood to help cover the increases in gas prices, since I am a small-scale miner/gold prospector and