

I would like to clarify my position of some of these amendments:

Amendment 630 would have required the Secretary of State to report on whether additional military aid to Egypt could be used to counter the illegal smuggling of weapons into Gaza. The omnibus bill already explicitly authorizes the use of military aid provided to Egypt for border security programs so the amendment was completely unnecessary.

Amendment 631 would have prohibited funds for reconstruction efforts in Gaza unless the administration certifies that the funds will not be diverted to Hamas or entities controlled by Hamas. The Omnibus bill and permanent law already prohibit any funds from being provided to Hamas or entities controlled by Hamas so this amendment was also completely unnecessary.

Amendment 634 would have prevented funds in this bill from going to companies that assist Iran's energy sector. While I have long supported tough action against Iran for its illicit nuclear program, sending this provision back to the House of Representatives could have endangered final passage of the bill.

Amendment 613 would have cut off all U.S. funding for the United Nations if it imposes any tax on any United States person. The U.N. has never imposed a tax, is not a taxing organization, and if the U.N. ever decided it wanted to impose a tax the U.S. would veto it. This amendment is unnecessary.

Amendment 604 would have extended the E-Verify worker identification program for an additional five years. The omnibus bill already contains a 6-month extension of this program.

Amendment 662 would prohibit the use of funds by the Federal Communications Commission to promulgate the fairness doctrine. On February 26, 2009, I voted in favor of an amendment offered by the junior Senator from South Carolina to prevent the FCC from promulgating the fairness doctrine. This amendment passed the Senate as part of S. 160, the Washington, DC voting rights bill. Also, there are no provisions in the omnibus bill related to the fairness doctrine, making this amendment unnecessary.

Amendment 604 repeals the provision of the Legislative Reorganization Act which grants Members an automatic pay adjustment each year. The amendment would take effect beginning December 11, 2010, and would require the enactment of new legislation to grant Members a pay raise. I believe the junior Senator from Louisiana was doing nothing more than playing politics with his amendment, as he objected to passing a stand-alone bill offered by the Senate majority leader that would have accomplished the same goal as the Vitter amendment. I would have supported passing the majority leader's bill.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, earlier this week the Senate voted down amend-

ment No. 668 offered by my colleague Senator ENZI by a vote of 42 to 53. I strongly opposed this amendment and am pleased that my colleagues defeated this harmful amendment.

The amendment, if passed, would have cut more than \$983,000 in Ryan White Part A funding to the city of Hartford, CT, and more than \$770,000 in funding to the city of New Haven, CT, in fiscal year 2009. The Enzi amendment would have forced these cities to absorb a combined cut of more than 35 percent to their Ryan White Part A grant in 1 year.

During floor debate on the Enzi amendment, the amendment was represented as a proposal that would simply cut funding from San Francisco. That is not the case and if the Enzi amendment had become law, thousands of individuals living with HIV/AIDS in the State of Connecticut would have been denied direct medical services for the treatment of their disease.

Cuts in funding as envisioned under the Enzi amendment would have deprived individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut access to medications, clinics would have to turn away patients, and programs would have to make drastic cuts to counseling, transportation, and nutrition assistance.

In fact, 13 cities in Florida, California, New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and Connecticut would have seen huge funding cuts under the Enzi amendment.

For the information of my colleagues, the State of Connecticut was severely disadvantaged because of the way the last reauthorization was handled. Despite receiving assurances and seeing numbers that told a different picture, the 2006 reauthorization bill has led to more than \$3 million in annual losses to Connecticut. The funding provided in the omnibus is essential to restoring these cuts.

It is my sincere hope that we can address the problems underlying the cuts to Connecticut when we reauthorize this program which expires this year. I find it regretful that the senate had to take up this funding fight yesterday because reauthorizations of the Ryan White CARE Act program have traditionally enjoyed bipartisan support.

I want to thank Senators HARKIN and INOUE for including the largest increase in Part A of Ryan White in 8 years in the fiscal year 2009 omnibus bill. With the defeat of the Enzi amendment, cities under Part A will receive a total increase of more than \$25 million.

I thank my colleagues for defeating this harmful amendment.

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:

Thanks for asking our input. As Republican delegates to the convention in Sandpoint, my wife and I were pleased to help pass resolutions encouraging energy development.

I am really not sure what blend of ineptitude/conspiracy (not you, sir) to blame for not drilling in Alaska and off our coasts for the last 15 years, but I am glad to see that clearing up.

I do encourage domestic and offshore drilling; China is already drilling past the 16 mile limit off the coasts of California and Florida. (I gave a letter from delegate Jack Streeter to Bill Sali regarding this at the convention; he may recall it).

Also, I would like to plug Idaho developing not only nuclear power (I could go either way on that) but I really think, as our forefathers had the wisdom to use government resources to develop hydroelectric power, which we still benefit from, so we should develop wind power, in a state so blessed with wind, water and mountains!

Rather than our children inheriting simply an enormous U.S. debt burden, I would like to see us drill on a national level (Idaho might benefit from deep drilling, like the Russians are doing, 30-40,000 foot deep wells, unlike anything we have—that is how you get oil in high altitude regions like Idaho) and produce cheap, renewable energy from wind in Idaho to bless our selves, and children and generations beyond.

Please let me hear your thoughts; wind power for Idaho by state funding or even a U.S. bill would be an earmark few in the state would hold against you.

BOB, Mountain Home.

I heard on the radio that you want input from Idahoans on the subject of gas prices and ideas for solutions. That is why I am writing. In my opinion, this is a manipulated situation, designed to pull more money from the pockets of working Americans and put it in the coffers of corporate America and a few of the mega wealthy citizens. We have seen this happen before with the Enron debacle and the spike of electricity prices a few years ago. We have seen it with the .com stock market crash. We have seen it with the housing market crisis. This is but another symptom of the larger problem—corporate irresponsibility and subsequent government bailout.

The larger problem is the corruption in Washington. Corporate business cannot run government and have the citizens of the country be the winner in anything. The only solution to the problem of gas prices (and drug prices, and food prices) is to kick corporate lobbies out of Washington, step up to

the plate and legislate for the people, not corporate. If this does not happen, next year's problem will be extreme food shortages in the U.S., as is happening in much of the rest of the world. Corporate farming giants are not producing as the old-fashioned family farmer did.

The other part of this problem is the [partisan blaming of] each other for the problems. Continuing along this line simply compounds the problems, and bipartisan solutions are not found. Again, the citizens of our nation suffer. I am one of a growing majority of Americans who are sick to death of hearing the yammering and in-fighting coming from Washington. At the rate our leaders in Washington are going, the terrorists will not have anything left to terrorize. Government and corporate corruption will have torn the country apart for them. You all need to put your party difference aside and come up with solutions with the other party for the good of the country, or there is not going to be a country anymore.

It is not just a fuel price crisis; it is a country in crisis, from sea to shining sea.

ANNA, *Weiser*.

I am writing in response to your recent request for input about gas prices and how it has affected our lives in Idaho. As you mentioned: "The driving distances between places in our state as well as limited public transportation options mean that many of us do not have any choice but to keep driving and paying those ever-increasing prices for fuel." I could not agree more. The opportunity for good solid employment in Idaho is not something that can be found too often in the little towns spread across the state. This of course means that if you want a good job you will have to commute. Being a single mother, I have had no choice but to find good steady employment. I have been commuting from west of Blackfoot to Idaho Falls to work every day. Due to the price of gas, I have recently been forced to sell my home and try to relocate in Idaho Falls. I have had to uproot my 3-year-old little boy from his daily routine and child care. I have had to move away from family and friends who helped with him therefore causing yet more costs to me in the form of more expensive daycare. It is so sad that my son will now have to be with strangers each day while I work to support the two of us all because I could not afford to commute a mere 45 miles to work. It is sad that I am forced to be secluded from lifelong friends and family because now that I am moving to Idaho Falls I cannot afford to drive to Blackfoot to see them. Sick—it is just sickening.

SHERI, *Blackfoot*.

Sir, you asked for input on energy issues. Here is mine:

First, I fully support nuclear energy. When viewed in terms of energy independence, being environmentally friendly (e.g., green house gas emission, waste), sustainability, cost and efficiency, it stands out above every other option. Wind, solar, ocean tides and the like may be reasonable supplemental energy sources in certain cases but they are not primary energy sources. The public needs to be educated on this.

Second, the gas tax holiday concept is foolish. It is robbing Peter-to-pay-Paul. We need that tax money for highway maintenance and construction. Also, a gas tax holiday would do nothing to increase supply but would increase demand (in the short term due to a drop in pump prices), therefore worsening the supply/demand situation.

Third, we need to aggressively pursue gasoline's ultimate replacement (e.g., ethanol) like Brazil has. E85 fuel is a prudent start. Also, we are at the door step to the hydrogen

economy; we need to be seriously working toward it.

Regarding a response to this inquiry, just an acknowledgement that you received it is adequate. Thanks.

CHRIS, *Falls*.

The people of Idaho are affected by the energy crisis. This is why we in Idaho and across our country need to learn to conserve and to develop clean and safe energy alternatives which do not pose a risk for our children's future. I oppose the use of nuclear energy as it does pose a health risk however small. Remember Chernobyl and Three Mile Island. In addition, I oppose more domestic drilling. Harming our earth more just to feed our excessive oil habit is a short term knee-jerk reaction. I strongly hope that Idaho can be a role model for other states, by really looking at the problem and creating long term solutions such as conservation, more public transportation, and investment in extensive wind and solar power energy.

SHEILA, *Hailey*.

You ask for people to tell you their story about what the high cost of gas and energy is doing to them. Well, here it is. We live in rural Idaho. For those that do not know what that means, it is ninety miles to a doctor or a reasonably priced grocery store. Some people are going to say, "take mass transit"; we do have a subsidized transit system (it costs over \$90 for the round trip). They also charge extra for more than one stop. It is cheaper to pay \$4 per gallon for gas. Some will say "buy a hybrid" that would be nice if I could afford one, \$40,000, and it will not do me any good. They get great mileage in town but at highway speeds, they do not get any better mileage than what I have. My family, daily, makes the choice "do we put gas in the car or do we buy food". I do not think anyone in government has ever had to make that choice.

I am so disgusted with our government and Congress in general that, I think, for the first time in fifty years, I will sit the next election out. In long-term results, I do not see an ounce of difference in the two candidates running for President. You need look no farther than congressional approval ratings. The government (all of you) have lied to the American people for so long that I believe you have started believing your own lies. You take my Social Security money and spend it to buy votes. You take the items out that we all have to buy to calculate inflation. Everything you do is calculated on a political power basis. You borrow money from my grandchildren to send me a check and tell me it is good for the economy. You have us so deep in debt that what money we have is not worth anything. I do not expect my Social Security check to feed me the rest of my life.

I guess I have ranted enough. You ask for it; there it is. I do not expect it to do any good. You will not do what the people want, you are going to do whatever generates you the most power wither it is good for the country or not. Drill here—drill now!

JESS, *Aberdeen*.

Like everyone, I have been very concerned about the rising cost in fuel, and everything else. I am trying to raise a family with my husband, and we definitely feel the pinch. Even as the price of filling our cars has increased dramatically, so has the cost of feeding our family. It is costing my husband almost \$10 per day, in a fuel-efficient sedan, just to go to work. We also have my husband's brother's family living here to get back on their feet, so, of course, the cost of running our household and everything in it is a concern.

I wanted to tell you that I strongly support domestic drilling. It is something we should have done years ago, and should be implemented as soon as possible. We need to decrease our reliance on foreign oil! I also think that if we are to continue fighting for the freedoms of the people in the Middle East, we should expect that they compensate us, maybe with oil. I know the answers are more complicated than that, but there has to be something done. I would also, of course, support alternative energy sources. I have heard interesting things about algae, some of which you can see in a video here: <http://www.valcent.net/i/misc/Vertigro/index.html>.

I am not eloquent or succinct, but I wanted my voice heard. Please encourage Washington to lift bans on off-shore drilling, and also to explore domestic drilling. Also please express support for programs to research alternative energy; and anything else that will decrease our dependence on other countries for our energy.

Thank you for your time, and your continued service to our great state. Your representation is much appreciated.

JENNIFER, *Nampa*.

You are trying to find out the public mind on what should be done about the energy crisis and I really appreciate that. Thank you.

I am in college, married and working to pay for school. The gas prices have not helped me at all.

It is great that we are trying to get more fuel-efficient cars but, I would like to see cars that do not need fuel at all. (hydrogen fuel cell) The batteries for electric cars have harmful chemicals in them and are going to be expensive to replace and hard to dispose of. If we can push hydrogen we will eliminate a lot of our dependency on oil altogether, demand will go down; then the people who still need fossil fuels can afford it.

As far as powering the nation goes, I am a great fan of nuclear power. I started working at the INL outside of Idaho Falls; here I was educated on nuclear energy and radiation. Education was the key to convince me of the benefits of nuclear power. People are just scared of it because they do not understand it or radiation. If the public can be educated, I believe nuclear power can become much more feasible. Even new coal-fired power plants have a near zero emission operation and I would be OK with using our coal resource to ease the burden until a new energy strategy can be implemented. In recent years, windmills were placed east of Idaho Falls, and I like the idea of making the best use of the resources in our area. Some things may work well here, and other things may work well in other places. Researching what works best in our area and implementing that is a wise strategy.

Lastly, I favor drilling for our own oil. Self-sufficiency is a principle that applies not only to individuals but to a country as well. It is good to deal and trade with other nations, but when a crisis is present making us pay unfair prices we need to be able to step away from the problem and be deal with it effectively. However, that oil is no good without refineries. We need to make sure we can do something with the oil we produce.

Thank you once again for listening and hopefully this can help you in making a decision.

KRIS, *Rezburg*.

Rising fuel costs are a big concern for us here in Idaho where a large percent of the working public have to drive 30 miles or more to work each day. And even with fuel efficient cars it still takes a large chunk of change to keep the gas tank full I carpool with three other coworkers to help the situation. Even with the carpool, it still costs me

\$200 to \$250 per month for fuel. We have family that live 600 miles + away and we can hardly afford to go see them. A trip to Reno costs over \$300 so we have to limit our trips to visit because it is too expensive. Our recreation has been limited, too. We have a cabin that is in the mountains east of where we live about 40 miles away but, because of fuel costs, we do not go there as often. Fuel costs are also driving the cost of everything we buy. Where is it all going to stop?

I think that we need to become less dependent on oil from overseas and do more work on developing our own resources. We need to work on alternative methods for powering the automobile. Charge higher fuel prices in the areas they have mass transportation available. Do not hammer the work force with all the high costs.

ORIN.

High energy prices are affecting my ability to provide resources for living for my family. I am a disabled veteran and on a fixed income, which prevents me from offsetting the costs of oil. We have had to make significant changes in the way we buy food, travel to the store and how much gas we use for cooking and heating, often times being stuck with a \$500 gas bill for a few gallons. The American people are smart. They know that Congress is scrambling to hide the real issue. That issue being, that they are no longer looking out for the best interests of the American people.

Though I am grateful that you and others in Idaho are finally trying to change things, this should have never been a problem in the first place. We have one of the world's largest resources of coal. We have very significant amount of oil on the coasts and within the continental United States. Still, you all bend to the wishes of eco-terrorists like Al Gore and that fraud agency EPA.

Drill now! Here! Kick China and other countries off of our coast lines. What were you thinking!! Letting other countries drill on our soil and coasts while forbidding and banning our own companies from doing it. That is obviously an attack on our sovereignty.

Please sir, get Congress back on track, and let them know we are on to them. For Idaho, For the United States of America! Please allow refineries. Allow drilling. Allow coal. Allow more nuke plants! Now please, stop wasting your time with email and written answers. Action is worth a thousand words!

ADAM.

[We] converted [our] pick-up truck to all electric. Why does not Congress give tax breaks to people who drive alternative vehicles?

In our home, we are conserving energy by making our house more energy-efficient. Why is not Congress enacting legislation to reward homeowners for replacing windows, furnaces, appliances with more energy efficient ones?

Rather than expand domestic oil supplies (off shore and in Alaska), why does not Congress raise the CAFE and heavily tax people who drive gas guzzlers for pleasure (not business)? Congress should be enacting meaningful legislation to curb consumption before jumping to open up off shore resources and ANWR.

I think Congress should be embarrassed for talking about opening up domestic oil resources when they just defeated a windfall profit tax on oil companies. Higher prices at the pumps, record profits, a Congress who cannot do the right things to curb consumption and encourage conservation/alternative resources, a Congress who caters to the oil companies at the expense of the environment and the non-rich.

Come on, Senator Crapo—please vote, sponsor, support a government “of, by, and for the people”.

MICHAEL.

We still pay less than European countries. What I think is a total same is the fact that the Treasure Valley still does not have a decent bus system. When I was in Olympia, Washington (pop of 20,000) during the 1960s that had a better bus system that included other cities than we have now. Think of the energy savings possible if the bus system was easy and accessible for all of the residents.

MICHAEL.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO EMMA JEAN GUYN MILLER

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great admiration and respect that I take this time to memorialize one of Kentucky's most cherished citizens, Mrs. Emma Jean Guyn Miller. Unfortunately, Mrs. Miller passed away at the age of 107. However, her life story should serve as an inspiration for people in central Kentucky and around the entire United States.

Mrs. Miller was born in Woodford County on September 29, 1901, and moved with her family to Nicholasville in 1902. Since she was young Mrs. Miller knew that she wanted to gain an education and better her community. However, since Kentucky schools were still segregated during this time period, Mrs. Miller could only attend the Nicholasville Colored School, that only served students through the eighth grade. This situation did not stop Mrs. Miller. Her mother, making only \$4.50 a week, and her local church saved enough money to send Mrs. Miller to Russell High School in Lexington where she graduated in 1920.

After graduating from high school she attended Turner Normal School in Shelbyville, TN, and earned her teaching certificate. She then returned to Nicholasville and began a teaching career that lasted over 40 years. Mrs. Miller began her career teaching in a one room schoolhouse and did not retire until segregated schools were ended in Nicholasville. Her students remembered Mrs. Miller as a kind but strict teacher who always had their best interest at heart.

In 1940 she married William Miller, and although they did not have any children, the Millers opened their home to numerous young people in the community who needed a place to stay. She also continued to be active in Bethel AME Church, now Bethel Methodist Church, and was a member for over 80 years. This church was the same congregation that helped pay for her education at Russell High School.

Mrs. Miller's life story should serve as an inspiration to every American. Her uniquely American story should give us hope that we can make a difference in our local communities and change the world one person at a time. •

HONORING DANCEBLUE

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the University of Kentucky's DanceBlue student organization and 24-hour dance marathon. This organization operates through the support and leadership of UK students, faculty, and staff as well as the Lexington community. The organization improves the lives of children and families suffering from childhood cancer through the Golden Matrix Fund, and helps serve the Bluegrass by assisting those treated at the University of Kentucky Pediatric Oncology Clinic. In just 4 years of operation, the DanceBlue organization has raised over \$1 million towards research in childhood cancer. I would like to take this time to recognize the student leadership behind DanceBlue: Erin Priddy, Caitlin Mullen, Betsy Cooper, Joshua Rupp, Carson Massler, Townsend Miller, Colin Wheeler, and Tyler Bolin.

Erin Priddy is a senior from Louisville, KY, and is the DanceBlue overall chair for this year. She is the fourth individual to preside over DanceBlue operations. Erin has spent many of her days and nights planning this year-long fundraising process which builds up the actual dance marathon, as well as being a full time student. The success of this organization would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of Erin.

Caitlin Mullen is the vice chair for the DanceBlue organization and is also in her senior year at the University of Kentucky. Caitlin's hard work this entire year on the budget for the organization, as well as maintaining the organization's committees and keeping them together are a value to the entire university.

Betsy Cooper is a senior from Paducah, KY, and is the dance marathon programming chair. Betsy's role with DanceBlue involves planning, organizing, and orchestrating the entire 24-hour period of which the Dance Marathon consists including overseeing 650 student dancers that will dance for 24-hours.

Joshua Rupp is a senior from Louisville, KY, and is involved with many organizations on campus. His role with DanceBlue is the rules, regulations and operations chair. He is in charge of the logistics for the dance marathon which took place this past weekend. Josh's influence and presence on the University of Kentucky is a benefit to the school and the community.

Carson Massler is a senior from Louisville, KY, and graduate of Sacred Heart Academy. Her role with DanceBlue is the family relations chair. Her position is vital to the organization since she serves as a liaison between the UK Pediatric Oncology Clinic and Golden Matrix Fund families and DanceBlue. The partnerships she has created serve as a sign of hope that this organization will continue to flourish for many more years.