

This is a picture of what you can see all throughout Fargo, ND. They have Neighborhood Watch groups to patrol to make sure there is no seepage. If there is a place that needs to be built up, they put out a call and people turn up just like this. You can see hundreds of people here working to sandbag to try to defend their homes and defend their neighborhoods.

The thing that has kind of escaped the attention of the national media but which is so striking is, this flood threat is all across North Dakota, from the far western part of the State all across to eastern North Dakota and the Red River Valley. The Red River Valley gets most of the attention, but we landed in Valley City on Friday and in Valley City—no, this was on Saturday—the snow around the airport was 10 feet high. That is the Cheyenne River Valley. The Cheyenne River Valley will crest later than the Red. But they are anticipating record crest levels.

Again, we went to a place where they have the Winter Show, in Valley City, ND. It is a big structure. There are hundreds of volunteers there working around the clock. This is from my hometown, the Bismarck Tribune, Bismarck, ND, with the headline, simply “Battered,” “Area Hit Hard by a 1-2 Punch.” That was flooding and a blizzard; 12 to 18 inches of snow hit my hometown last week.

Last night we got another major winter storm. I am told more than 10 inches of snow hit last night. We were faced with an immediate threat of flooding.

Here you can see two guys wading. This is ice. They have broken through the ice in their hip waders, and this is all water. They are going to check on the home of a couple to make sure they are safe.

This is the kind of flooding that was in my hometown. Here is a canoe, people going from one house to another in a canoe.

It is hard to fully appreciate the magnitude of this. We have had massive snowfall in places in the State, three times average, of course leading to these record floods. We have never seen the Red River at this height before in recorded history. Never before in recorded history has it been this high.

I want to say to people who are watching, it is inspirational to see these communities come together, to work together in an all-out effort to save their homes, to save their communities. I could not be more proud of the people of North Dakota. Boy, faced with threat, they have absolutely demonstrated what I think are heroic qualities.

I was pleased the President acknowledged this in his weekend address and talked about what this demonstrates about the human spirit. Honestly, you have to be there to fully appreciate what I am talking about.

We are thinking about our friends and neighbors and families back home,

wishing them the very best as this flood fight continues. The great news is the river is going down, at least the Red is going down. But we have to contend with this major winter storm that is going to hit tonight, and we also have to contend with something nobody can predict—how fast things will warm up. If it warms up too fast that water out there is going to head for the river. We know we ought to keep up our guard, and that is what everybody intends to do.

I also want to acknowledge the local leadership: Mayor Walaker, Deputy Mayor Tim Mahoney—what outstanding leadership they are providing in that community. These guys are not working any 8-hour days. It is round the clock and it could not be better. They are out there urging their citizenry on. They have said: If we go down, we are going to go down swinging.

I tell you, I don't think they are going to go down. I think they are going to win.

#### HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL MICHAEL OUELLETTE

Mr. GREGG. I rise this morning on behalf of Kathy and myself to express our deepest sympathies to the family of CPL Michael Ouellette. Corporal Ouellette died in Afghanistan last week, and his funeral is today. I have spoken with his mother, and, of course, he was an exceptional individual. These young men who serve us in the military are all exceptional. He served two tours of duty in Iraq, was decorated, and then went to Afghanistan to serve again.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire and our Nation, I thank his parents for having raised such an extraordinary child. We appreciate and thank them for the service he has given this Nation, and we obviously express our deepest concern during this extremely difficult period.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish to say on behalf of the people I represent that we, too, send our condolences to the family of the soldier who was lost. My State has suffered many losses in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we understand the extraordinary sacrifice these families make. We wish to say to the people of New Hampshire, and especially the family of the soldier, that our thoughts and prayers are with them as well.

#### AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to inform all Senators that on Friday, March 27, 2009, the Committee on Rules and Administration adopted amendments to the following regulations:

Regulations Governing Allocation and Acquisition of Equipment for Senators, Com-

mittees, Officers, and Employees of the United States Senate;

Smoking Policy—Rule X, Rules for Regulation of Senate Wing;

Ticket Preparation Fees—Senate Travel Regulations;

Regulations Governing Rates Payable to Commercial Reporting Firms for Preparation of Transcripts of Hearings in the Senate;

Signature/Documentation Provisions—Regulations Governing Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Accounts; and Advance Payment Regulations.

These regulations as amended are effective immediately.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a document summarizing these updates and the text of the regulations as amended be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### SUMMARIES OF PROPOSED AMENDED REGULATIONS

(1) Regulations Governing Allocation and Acquisition of Equipment for Senators, Committees, Officers, and Employees of the United States Senate

The updated regulations change the manner by which offices are provided computer and office equipment. Offices will be given a single economic allocation to purchase supported computer and office equipment. This will ensure that offices are better equipped in a manner that is “revenue neutral” to the Senate. The regulations ensure that each employee or detailee gets one workstation and access to appropriate office equipment.

(2) Smoking Policy—Rule X, Rules for Regulation of Senate Wing

The limited exception of approved indoor smoking space in the Senate Wing of the Capitol and the Senate Office Buildings has been removed due to the closing of all indoor smoking rooms under the control of the Rules Committee. The proposed text of Rule X deletes the exception for smoking rooms in the Senate that no longer exist.

(3) Ticket Preparation Fees—Senate Travel Regulations

The proposed amendment removes the dollar amount from the Senate Travel Regulations and authorizes the Rules Committee to set a rate for ticket preparation fees. This will permit the periodic adjustment of the fee by the Rules Committee without necessitating a change in the regulations.

(4) Regulations Governing Rates Payable to Commercial Reporting Firms for Preparation of Transcripts of Hearings in the Senate

These regulations were last updated in 1990 and include reimbursement to transcription companies that are well below market rate. The proposed amended regulations authorize the Rules Committee to publish and periodically update a schedule of reimbursement rates for transcription services.

(5) Signature/Documentation Provisions—Regulations Governing Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Accounts

The provisions for authorized signature(s) were originally adopted in 1979 and amended in 1992 to permit a designated staff member to certify vouchers and the Senator to approve them. An amendment in 2003 increased the threshold of the receipt amount to \$50. However, the 2003 amendment used the 1979 version of the regulations instead of the 1992 updated version. The proposed change will update the signature/documentation provisions to include the 1979, 1992, and 2003 amendments, in accordance with the current practices used throughout the Senate. If approved, this regulation will be reprinted in

the Senate Travel Regulations for the sake of convenience.

(6) Advance Payment Regulations

Language is being added at the request of Senate office managers to clarify the obligation of funds at the end of a fiscal year. There has been confusion over the years regarding which funding period should be used for certain types of expenses. The new language provides the necessary explanation and is in accordance with the practices used throughout the Senate. The regulation will also be amended to permit Senate Officers to make advance payments.

APPENDIX II—A: REGULATIONS GOVERNING ALLOCATION AND ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT FOR SENATORS, COMMITTEES, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

SEC. 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

(This section shall be effective March 27, 2009.)

The Economic Allocation Fund shall be established and maintained by the Senate Sergeant at Arms with the approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate is authorized and directed to furnish to Senators, committees, and officials of the Senate equipment in quantities not to exceed the allowance in their economic allocation fund.

Equipment shall be furnished upon written request of the Senator, Chairman of a committee, or Senate official. Equipment accountability and inventory control will be governed by the Regulations on Equipment Accountability issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration. Equipment provided will be charged, in the case of a Senator, to either his/her economic allocation fund or those funds within the official office expense accounts for other official expenses (10 percent discretionary funds). In the case of a committee or official, charges will be made to economic allocation funds of the committee or official.

The Sergeant at Arms is authorized to evaluate and test equipment which he deems to be best suited to the needs of the Senate and shall notify the Rules Committee of any changes in the authorized office equipment list. To the extent possible, the Sergeant at Arms shall standardize or limit variety of office equipment to provide for greater utilization and interchange between offices, and ease of maintenance of equipment. Specialized equipment not included in these regulations shall be furnished only upon the recommendation of the Sergeant at Arms and with the prior approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Acquisition of equipment is to be conducted according to the Procurement Regulations of the United States Senate. The Sergeant at Arms shall have the authority to either purchase or lease equipment in the best interests of economical procurement.

Equipment presently assigned to offices which is deemed in excess of their needs shall revert to the control of the Sergeant at Arms for reassignment.

The Committee chairman shall ensure that each full-time employee and full-time, authorized detailee on the committee is provided with a workstation and have appropriate access to related office equipment.

SEC. 2. GENERAL OFFICE EQUIPMENT

(This section shall be effective March 27, 2009.)

(a) All general office equipment used in Senate offices shall be issued and maintained by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate. The Sergeant at Arms shall maintain a schedule in which available equipment is identified according to the classes set forth below:

TABLE 11—1: CLASS OF EQUIPMENT AND MINIMUM LIFE

Class	Description	Minimum Life
I	Letter Folder Letter Insertor. Letter Sealer. Paper Cutter w/stand. Signature Signing Machine.	10 Years
II	Typewriters—Electric	10 Years
III	Calculators—Desk or Hand-held Copy Holders. Noise Suppressors. Pencil Sharpeners (Electric). Recorders and Transcribers—Desk. Combination or Portable. Staplers (Electric). Tape Recorders. Time Recorders.	6 Years

Allocations

Sec. 2. (b) The Sergeant at Arms is authorized to issue general office equipment upon receipt of requests from Senators, committee chairmen, and heads of Senate offices, up to the limits set forth by the availability of their economic allocation funds.

Sec. 2. (c)(1) The Sergeant at Arms may sell to a Senator who is leaving office or otherwise ceasing to be a Senator (except by expulsion) any item of office equipment located in such Senator's Washington, DC or state offices, subject to the restrictions set forth in paragraph (2).

Sec. 2. (c)(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection shall apply to equipment which has reached its expected useful life and has been declared surplus to the needs of the Senate. Such sales may be made only when such Senator submits a written request to the Sergeant at Arms, at least thirty days prior to leaving office, setting forth the item or items he or she desires to purchase. Whenever compliance with a provision of this paragraph would create an undue hardship or would not be in the public interest, such provision may be waived by the Sergeant at Arms.

SEC. 3. PHOTOCOPIERS AND DUPLICATING EQUIPMENT

(This section shall be effective March 27, 2009)

Section 3(a) amended January 12, 1983, to increase collating capacity on Class IIB copiers from 15 to 20 bins. Sections 3(c)(2)(B) and (C) deleted March 18, 1983, to eliminate plate making charges for printed work and the per copy costs for photocopy work in the central reproduction facility. Section 3(c)(2) amended September 26, 1984, to be effective October 1, 1984, to provide a graduated "extra copy" charge for Senators' offices based on population.)

Sec. 3. (a) All copying equipment used in Senate offices shall be issued and maintained by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate. All copier locations must meet manufacturers' space and electrical requirements. The Sergeant at Arms shall maintain a schedule in which available copy machines are classified according to the classes set forth below:

TABLE 11—2: CLASSES OF COPY MACHINES AND DESCRIPTIONS

Class	Class description	Copier description
I	Low volume convenience w/document feeders.	Personal convenience copiers are table top machines with low operating speeds.
II	Office convenience	Office convenience copiers are floor model or table top.
III	Committee convenience	Committee convenience copiers are higher volume machines and have faster operating speeds than Class II copiers and have finishing capabilities.

Allocations

Sec. 3. (b) The Sergeant at Arms is authorized to issue copy equipment upon receipt of requests from Senators, committee chairmen, and heads of Senate offices, up to the limits set forth by the availability of their economic allocation funds.

Washington offices

(1) The recommended levels for copy machines in Senators' offices in Washington, DC are:

(A) For those Senators whose state population is 7 million or more (based on the most recent census figures), one Class IIA and two Class I, or one Class IIB and one Class I copier in the principal suite assigned to the Senator, or;

for those Senators whose state population is less than 7 million (based on 1980 census figures, revised to 1987), one Class IIA and one Class I, or one Class IIB copier in the principal suite assigned to the Senator.

(B) One class I copier in one additional location assigned to the Senator provided:

(i) the location is in another building, or is in the same building but not adjacent to another location containing a copier assigned to the Senator; and

(ii) the location is not in an annex building.

State offices

(2) The recommended levels for copy machines in Senators' offices in their home states are one class II copier in each of two principal state offices and one class I copier in each of five other state offices, except that a class II copier may be provided in lieu of a class I copier to a third office located in a state with a population greater than 21 million.

Committee offices

(3) The recommended levels for copy machines in committee offices are:

(A) One class II or class III copier in the principal suite assigned to the committee, as determined by the Sergeant at Arms based on a requirements analysis. The requirements analysis shall consider (but shall not be limited to) the nature of the work of the office, the size of the office, and the proximity of alternate copy facilities.

(B) One class I or class IIA copier in each additional location assigned to the committee provided:

(i) the location is in another building, or is in the same building but not adjacent to another location containing a copier assigned to the committee; and

(ii) the location is not in an annex building.

Leadership offices, policy committees, and administrative offices

(4) The recommended levels for copy machines in leadership offices, policy committees, and administrative offices are one or more class I, II, or III copiers, as determined by the Sergeant at Arms based on a requirements analysis. The requirements analysis shall consider (but shall not be limited to) the nature of the work of the office, the size of the office, and the proximity of alternate copy facilities.

Cost distribution

Sec. 3. (c)(1) The Sergeant at Arms shall pay the monthly maintenance fee for owned equipment and the rental for rented equipment. Offices shall pay for the supplies (paper, toner, developer, etc.) used with assigned copiers.

(2) Offices shall reimburse the Sergeant at Arms for extra copy costs on convenience copiers, whether owned by the Senate or rented, at the rate of 2 cents per copy for copies in excess of the amounts set forth in the following table, except that Senators will not be charged a copy cost on Senate owned Class IIA machines that were installed in such Senators' Washington offices on May 1, 1981:

TABLE 11—3: FREE COPIES PER MONTH (IN THOUSANDS)  
(Senators representing States in the following population ranges (in millions))

Class	Under 4	4 to 7	7 to 12	12 to 21	Over 21	Other offices
I .....	2	2	3	4	5	2
II .....	11	12	14	15	16	11
III .....	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20

*Copy Centers*

Sec. 3. (d) The Sergeant at Arms is authorized to establish, maintain, and operate copy centers when demand for the establishment of a center is justifiable on a cost basis.

The Sergeant at Arms is authorized, if he deems appropriate, to install devices on copy machines in copy centers and in the central reproduction center which automatically record the number of copies made for each user at the time copies are prepared, and the activation of which are necessary for the operation of copy machines.

SECTION 4. MICROGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT

(Effective March 27, 2009)

Sec. 4. (a) All micrographic equipment used in Senate offices shall be issued and maintained by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate. All micrographic equipment locations must meet manufacturers' space and electrical requirements.

*Classes of Equipment*

Sec. 4. (b) Micrographic equipment is classified in three groups:

- (1) Cartridge/Cassette Roll Film Viewers/Printers
- (2) Microfiche Viewers/Printers
- (3) Microfiche Viewers

The Sergeant at Arms shall maintain a schedule in which micrographic equipment that meets the performance requirements of the Senate is classified according to the classes set forth above and from which users may make specific selections.

*Allocations*

Sec. 4. (c) The Sergeant at Arms is authorized to issue micrographic equipment upon receipt of requests from Senators, committee chairmen, and heads of Senate offices, up to the limits set forth by the availability of their economic allocation funds.

*Replacement*

Sec. 4. (d) Microfilm equipment anticipated expectancies are:

TABLE II—4: MICROFILM EQUIPMENT LIFE EXPECTANCY

Class	Years
Cartridge/Cassette Viewers/Printers .....	8
Microfiche Viewers/Printers .....	8
Microfiche Viewers .....	10

SEC. 5. ALLOCATION OF TELECOPIER AND FACSIMILE EQUIPMENT TO SENATE OFFICES

(Effective March 27, 2009)

Sec. 5 (a) All facsimile equipment within the funding levels contained in these regulations used in Senate offices shall be issued and maintained by the Sergeant at Arms of the Senate. All equipment locations must meet manufacturers' space and electrical requirements. The Sergeant at Arms shall maintain a list of machines of equivalent capacity that meet Senate cost and performance standards from which users may select a specific machine.

Sec 5(b) The Sergeant at Arms is authorized to issue equipment upon receipt of requests from Senators, committee chairmen, and heads of Senate offices, up to the limits set forth by the availability of their economic allocation funds.

RULES FOR REGULATION OF SENATE WING

RULE X

SMOKING POLICY

(Adopted March 27, 2009)

Smoking is prohibited in all public places and unassigned space within the Senate Wing of the Capitol and the Senate Office Buildings. Senators and Chairmen of Committees in consultation with the Ranking Member may each establish smoking policies for office space assigned to them in the Senate Wing of the Capitol and the Senate Office Buildings.

U.S. SENATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS

SECTION II—TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES, SUBSECTION I—D, TICKET PREPARATION FEES (HANDBOOK, APPENDIX IV—D, PAGE IV—65)

D. Ticket Preparation Fees: Each Chairman, Senator, or Officer of the Senate may, at his/her discretion, authorize in extenuating circumstances the reimbursement of penalty fees associated with the cancellation of through fares, special fares, commutation fares, excursion, reduced-rate round trip fares and fees for travel arrangements, provided that reimbursement of such fees does not exceed the rates prescribed by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING RATES PAYABLE TO COMMERCIAL REPORTING FIRMS FOR PREPARATION OF TRANSCRIPTS OF HEARINGS IN THE SENATE

Adopted—January 23, 1990

Amended and Adopted—March 27, 2009.

Pursuant to the authority vested in it by the act of June 27, 1956 (70 Stat. 360; 2 U.S.C. 68c), the Committee on Rules and Administration approves the following revised regulations, effective March XX, 2009, governing payment from the contingent fund of the Senate to commercial reporting firms for the preparation of verbatim transcripts of hearings, markups, and related meetings held before Senate committees, subcommittees, and certain joint committees.

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

These regulations establish the technical and procedural requirements for commercial reporting firms providing and receiving reimbursement for verbatim transcripts of hearings, markups, and related meetings held before Senate committees, subcommittees, and certain joint committees.

Each transcript shall be provided electronically to the requesting committee in accordance with Section II of these regulations.

Except as provided in Section III of these regulations, all vouchers shall be supported and accompanied by a Secretary of the Senate page count. Each electronic transcript submitted must contain only one day or one session of a hearing. The Secretary of the Senate will include a separate count for material inserted in the transcript.

The Secretary of the Senate page count shall be considered final and conclusive on all parties, and shall be calculated through the following process:

1. Determine total number of characters in transcript.
  - a. A character is a key stroke. It includes any alpha-numeric and word processing command.
2. Divide total number of characters by 1,300.
3. The result in Step 2 rounded to the next whole number shall be the number of pages in the transcript.

To assist the Secretary of the Senate in conducting accurate page counts, commercial reporting firms shall utilize software

tools provided by the Secretary of the Senate.

Hard copy transcripts will be supplied only upon agreement between committees and vendors and subject to the requirements of Section II.

Fifth Business day copy (transcripts delivered within five business days) will be supplied unless same day, next day, or second business day copy is specifically requested by the chairman of the committee.

II. FORMAT OF TRANSCRIPTS

Electronic—All electronic transcripts must conform to the technical specifications established by the Committee on Rules and Administration. Electronic transcripts supplied shall contain 25 lines of characters to the page. The lines must be double spaced and contain 10 letters to the inch. The paging of the transcript shall be in a single series of consecutive numbering, exclusive of inserted material. Committees and vendors shall agree in advance upon the file type, or types, to be provided (ex. Word, Word Perfect, PDF, E-Transcript, ASCII, etc. . . ).

The following technical specifications will be used by reporting companies when supplying electronic hearing transcripts for committees of the Senate:

1. The media and data must be unblocked and the electronic transcript shall contain the full verbatim record.

2. The electronic file must contain the following identifying information in the document's meta-data:

- Reporting Company name
- Company Representative
- Phone number

The words "U.S. Senate" The Committee and/or Subcommittee for whom the tape is produced

- Title of Meeting
- Date(s) of Meeting

Hard copy—All hard copy transcripts shall be an original letter quality produced on 20-lb. white writing paper or equivalent white paper, one side only, in a size of 8.5 × 11 inches with margin of 1.75 inches at the left side. All pages shall contain 25 lines of type-writing to the page. The lines must be double spaced and contain 10 letters to the inch. The paging of the transcript shall be in a single series of consecutive numbering, exclusive of inserted material.

The entire hard copy record shall be drilled or punched with three holes, 4.25 inches center to center on the left side, fastened with heavy paper of good quality. A cover sheet containing the following identifying information shall be included with the hard copy transcript:

- Reporting Company name
- Company Representative
- Phone number
- The words "U.S. Senate"
- The Committee and/or Subcommittee for whom the tape is produced
- Title of Meeting
- Date(s) of Meeting

III. EXCEPTION TO PAGE COUNT REQUIREMENT

In cases where, for reasons of security, the committee chairman determines a copy of the transcript shall not be forwarded to the Secretary of the Senate for a page count, a voucher will be honored if supported on its face by an affidavit by an official of the commercial reporting firm, setting forth the page count and including a statement by the committee chairman to the effect that no page count is desired for reasons of security.

IV. REIMBURSEMENT RATES

The Senate Committee on Rules and Administration will publish, and periodically update, a schedule of reimbursement rates for transcription services. The amounts in the schedule shall represent the maximum reimbursement rates for the listed services.

V. PRIOR REGULATIONS FOR REPORTORIAL SERVICES RESCINDED

All previous rules and regulations of the Committee on Rules and Administration governing rates payable to commercial reporting firms for preparation of transcripts of hearings in the Senate are hereby canceled and rescinded.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE REGULATIONS

These regulations are effective on March 27, 2009.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING SENATORS' OFFICIAL PERSONNEL AND OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

(Adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration Pursuant to Senate Resolution 170 agreed to September 19, 1979, as amended May 22, 1992, further amended November 3, 2003, further amended March 27, 2009.)

Section 1. For the purposes of these regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

a. Documentation means invoices, bills, statements, receipts, or other evidence of expenses incurred, approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

b. Official expenses means ordinary and necessary business expenses in support of the Senators' official and representational duties.

Section 2. No reimbursement will be made from the contingent fund of the Senate for any official expenses incurred under a Senator's Official Personnel and Office Expense Account, in excess of \$50, unless the voucher submitted for such expenses is accompanied by documentation, and the voucher is certified by the properly designated staff member and approved by the Senator.

Section 3. Official expenses of \$50 or less must either be documented or must be itemized in sufficient detail so as to leave no doubt of the identity of, and the amount spent for, each item. Items of a similar nature may be grouped together in one total on a voucher, but must be itemized individually on a supporting itemization sheet.

Section 4. Travel expenses shall be subject to the same documentation requirements as other official expenses, with the following exceptions:

a. Hotel bills or other evidence of lodging costs will be considered necessary in support of per diem.

b. Documentation will not be required for reimbursement of official travel in a privately owned vehicle.

Section 5. No documentation will be required for reimbursement of the following classes of expenses, as these are billed and paid directly through the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper:

a. Official telegrams and long distance calls and related services;

b. Stationery and other office supplies procured through the Senate Stationery Room for use for official business.

Section 6. The Committee on Rules and Administration may require documentation for expenses incurred of \$50 or less, or authorize payment of expenses incurred in excess of \$50 without documentation, in special circumstances.

Section 7. Vouchers for the reimbursement of official travel expenses to a Senator, employee, detailee pursuant to section 503(b)(3) of PL 96-465, or individual serving on a nominee recommendation panel pursuant to 2 USC 58(h) shall be accompanied by an "Expense Summary Report—Travel" signed by such person. Vouchers for the reimbursement to any such individual for official expenses other than travel expenses shall be accompanied by an "Expense Summary Report—Non-Travel" signed by such person.

CHANGES TO THE SENATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS TO REFLECT CHANGES WITHIN THE UPDATED SIGNATURE REGULATIONS

II. Regulations Governing Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Accounts Adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration Pursuant to Senate Resolution 170 agreed to September 19, 1979, as amended.

Section 1. For the purposes of these regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

a. Documentation means invoices, bills, statements, receipts, or other evidence of expenses incurred, approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

b. Official expenses means ordinary and necessary business expenses in support of the Senators' official and representational duties.

Section 2. No reimbursement will be made from the contingent fund of the Senate for any official expenses incurred under a Senator's Official Personnel and Office Expense Account, in excess of \$50, unless the voucher submitted for such expenses is accompanied by documentation, and the voucher is certified by the properly designated staff member and approved by the Senator.

Section 3. Official expenses of \$50 or less must either be documented or must be itemized in sufficient detail so as to leave no doubt of the identity of, and the amount spent for, each item. Items of a similar nature may be grouped together in one total on a voucher, but must be itemized individually on a supporting itemization sheet.

Section 4. Travel expenses shall be subject to the same documentation requirements as other official expenses, with the following exceptions:

c. Hotel bills or other evidence of lodging costs will be considered necessary in support of per diem.

d. Documentation will not be required for reimbursement of official travel in a privately owned vehicle.

Section 5. No documentation will be required for reimbursement of the following classes of expenses, as these are billed and paid directly through the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper:

e. Official telegrams and long distance calls and related services;

f. Stationery and other office supplies procured through the Senate Stationery Room for use for official business.

Section 6. The Committee on Rules and Administration may require documentation for expenses incurred of \$50 or less, or authorize payment of expenses incurred in excess of \$50 without documentation, in special circumstances.

Section 7. Vouchers for the reimbursement of official travel expenses to a Senator, employee, detailee pursuant to section 503(b)(3) of PL 96-465, or individual serving on a nominee recommendation panel pursuant to 2 USC 58(h) shall be accompanied by an "Expense Summary Report—Travel" signed by such person. Vouchers for the reimbursement to any such individual for official expenses other than travel expenses shall be accompanied by an "Expense Summary Report—Non-Travel" signed by such person.

The proposed update specifies that the obligation date on a voucher is the transaction date on a third party vendor (Visa Card) monthly statement or invoice. The current regulations will be amended by the addition of the highlighted language.

COMMITTEE REGULATIONS GOVERNING ADVANCE PAYMENT

(Adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration, October 30, 1997, Amended on September 30, 1998, Further Amended on March 27, 2009)

Under the authority granted by Sec. 1(b) for P.L. 105-55, the FY98 Legislative Branch

Appropriations bill and using these regulations—

The term "advance payment" means any expense authorized, by the Committee on Rules and Administration, pursuant to P.L. 105-55.

By the above definition of advance payment and following the enactment of the FY98 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill, in addition to subscriptions, the following items are for advance payment:

a) Rental of water coolers (cooler units only/not for water)

b) Monthly maintenance on equipment that is either non-standard and/or above the \$500 limit

c) Cable TV services (including basic satellite service where needed)

d) Online services (for official use by the Senator only)

e) Rental booths at State Fairs, rent for space to be used during town hall meetings and associated costs (not to include insurance)

f) Conference and seminar fees (not to include meals charged separately)

g) Payments on leased equipment

h) Paging service

i) Clipping services

j) Yellow page listings (not to include the classified yellow pages)

k) State office rents, up to 1 year in advance

l) Metro subsidy, one week in advance of the new month

m) Pre-paid cellular and telephone communications

The date of transaction will determine the fiscal year for payments of government authorized charge cards or reimbursements to Members and staff. Additionally, for a charge card statement that crosses fiscal years, the transaction dates will be used to determine the fiscal year, which could require submitting two separate vouchers for one statement. If an office has documentation proving the transaction took place in a different fiscal year than the statement stipulates, that documentation will determine the fiscal year.

All Senate Offices (Member Offices, Committees, and Officers of the Senate) are authorized to voucher the initiation or renewal of subscriptions (print and digital) based on the obligation or transaction date.

With respect to charges for on-line services, paging services, clipping services, and equipment maintenance, advance payment shall only be made in the cases of "flat fee services."

Also, no advance payment will be allowed in instances where cancellation fees may be incurred. Time limitation on the obligation of funds is restricted to a Member's six-year term of office and a Committee's biennial funding period, or for Officers of the Senate, the term of a Congress.

COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, earlier this month, the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence released a report, "Exporting Gun Violence," that documents how Mexican drug gangs are exploiting weak U.S. gun laws and corrupt gun sellers in the U.S. to amass arsenals of high powered guns. These guns have been used to kill thousands in Mexico and pose an increasingly grave security threat to both Mexico and the United States.

Mexican law enforcement officials are increasingly being outgunned by