

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2009—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 55, which is H.R. 627, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to the H.R. 627, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights.

Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Mark Udall, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Kent Conrad, Patty Murray, Herb Kohl, Jeff Bingaman, Russell D. Feingold, Bernard Sanders, Ben Nelson, Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow, Bill Nelson, Richard Durbin, Jack Reed, Amy Klobuchar, Harry Reid.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

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

Mr. REID. I now withdraw the motion, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

COMMENDING HEROIC EFFORTS OF PEOPLE FIGHTING FLOODS IN NORTH DAKOTA

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 132, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 132) commending the heroic efforts of the people fighting the floods in North Dakota.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. 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 any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 132) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 132

Whereas 47 of the 53 counties in North Dakota have been declared Federal disaster areas;

Whereas wide swaths of North Dakota have faced unprecedented flooding crises, including cities along the Des Lacs, Heart, James, Knife, Missouri, Little Missouri, Park, Pembina, Red, Sheyenne, Souris, and Wild Rice Rivers and Beaver Creek;

Whereas the people of North Dakota have suffered tremendous damage to their homes, livelihoods, and communities;

Whereas the ranchers of North Dakota are estimated to have lost nearly 100,000 head of livestock;

Whereas many of the roads and bridges, and much of the other infrastructure, in North Dakota are in need of repair;

Whereas, despite terrible conditions, the people of North Dakota have shown the strength of their shared bond, coming together in large numbers to save their cities, towns, businesses, farms, and ranches;

Whereas stories of exceptional efforts abound, from people filling millions of sandbags on short notice, to people saving lives and effecting rapid emergency evacuations;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials have provided outstanding leadership and effective service throughout the crisis in North Dakota; and

Whereas the response of the people of North Dakota to the disaster has shown the world how communities can unite, fight, and win in a crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the people of North Dakota for their heroic efforts in fighting the floods in North Dakota;

(2) commends the many people from around the United States who assisted the people of North Dakota during this time of need;

(3) expresses appreciation to the officials of the numerous Federal agencies working on the ground in North Dakota for their consistently rapid, efficient, and effective response to the disaster; and

(4) continues to stand with the communities of North Dakota in the efforts to recover from the flooding during 2009, and to improve protections against flooding in the future.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT WEEK

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 133, submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 133) designating May 1 through May 7, 2009, as "National Physical Education and Sport Week."

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. 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 any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 133) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 133

Whereas childhood obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the United States;

Whereas the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that, by 2010, 20 percent of children in the United States will be obese;

Whereas a decline in physical activity has contributed to the unprecedented epidemic of childhood obesity;

Whereas regular physical activity is necessary to support normal and healthy growth in children;

Whereas overweight adolescents have a 70 to 80 percent chance of becoming overweight adults, increasing their risk for chronic disease, disability, and death;

Whereas Type II diabetes can no longer be referred to as "late in life" or "adult onset" diabetes because it occurs in children as young as 10 years old;

Whereas the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans recommend that children engage in at least 60 minutes of physical activity on most, and preferably all, days of the week;

Whereas children spend many of their waking hours at school and therefore need to be active during the school day to meet the recommendations of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans;

Whereas teaching children about physical education and sports not only ensures that they are physically active during the school day, but also educates them on how to be physically active and its importance;

Whereas only 3.8 percent of elementary schools, 7.9 percent of middle schools, and 2.1 percent of high schools provide daily physical education or its equivalent for the entire school year, and 22 percent of schools do not require students to take any physical education at all;

Whereas research shows that fit and active children are more likely to thrive academically;

Whereas participation in sports and physical activity improves self-esteem and body image in children and adults;

Whereas the social and environmental factors affecting children are in the control of the adults and the communities in which they live, and therefore this Nation shares a collective responsibility in reversing the childhood obesity trend; and

Whereas Congress strongly supports efforts to increase physical activity and participation of youth in sports: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 1 through May 7, 2009, as "National Physical Education and Sport Week";

(2) recognizes "National Physical Education and Sport Week" and the central role of physical education and sports in creating a healthy lifestyle for all children and youth;

(3) calls on school districts to implement local wellness policies as defined by the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 that include ambitious goals for physical education, physical activity, and other activities addressing the childhood obesity epidemic and promoting child wellness; and

(4) encourages schools to offer physical education classes to students and work with community partners to provide opportunities and safe spaces for physical activities before and after school and during the summer months for all children and youth.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 134, which was introduced earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 134) congratulating the students, parents, teachers, and administrators at charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education and supporting the ideas and goals of the 10th annual National Charter Schools Week, May 3 through May 9, 2009.

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 134) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 134

Whereas charter schools deliver high-quality education and challenge all students to reach their potential;

Whereas charter schools provide thousands of families with diverse and innovative educational options for their children;

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public entity that respond to the needs of communities, families, and students in the United States and promote the principles of quality, choice, and innovation;

Whereas, in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 40 States and the District of Columbia have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas approximately 4,700 charter schools are now operating in 40 States and the District of Columbia, serving more than 1,400,000 students;

Whereas, during the last 14 years, Congress has provided more than \$2,478,288,000 in financial assistance to the charter school movement through facilities financing assistance and grants for planning, startup, implementation, and dissemination;

Whereas many charter schools improve the achievements of students and stimulate improvement in traditional public schools;

Whereas charter schools must meet the student achievement accountability requirements under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) in the same manner as traditional public schools and often set higher and additional individual goals to ensure that charter schools are of high quality and truly accountable to the public;

Whereas charter schools give parents new freedom to choose public schools, routinely measure parental satisfaction levels, and must prove their ongoing success to parents, policymakers, and their communities;

Whereas more than 50 percent of charter schools report having a waiting list, and the total number of students on all such waiting lists is enough to fill more than 1,100 average-sized charter schools;

Whereas the President has called for increased Federal support for replicating and expanding high-performing charter schools to meet the dramatic demand created by the more than 365,000 children on charter school waiting lists; and

Whereas the 10th annual National Charter Schools Week is May 3 through May 9, 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of charter schools across the United States for their ongoing contributions to education, especially their impressive results in closing the persistent achievement gap in the United States, and improving and strengthening the public school system in the United States;

(2) supports the ideas and goals of the 10th annual National Charter Schools Week, a week-long celebration to be held May 3 through May 9, 2009, in communities throughout the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities during National Charter Schools Week to demonstrate support for charter schools.

MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 135, which was submitted earlier today.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 135) designating May 8, 2009, as "Military Spouse Appreciation Day."

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 135) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 135

Whereas the month of May marks National Military Appreciation Month;

Whereas military spouses provide vital support to men and women in the Armed Forces and help to make their service to the Armed Forces possible;

Whereas military spouses have been separated from their loved ones because of deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism and other military missions carried out by the Armed Forces;

Whereas the establishment of Military Spouse Appreciation Day would be an appropriate way to honor the spouses of members of the Armed Forces; and

Whereas May 8, 2009, would be an appropriate date to establish as "Military Spouse Appreciation Day": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 8, 2009, as "Military Spouse Appreciation Day";

(2) honors and recognizes the contributions made by spouses of members of the Armed Forces; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Military Spouse Appreciation Day to promote awareness of the contributions of spouses of members of the Armed Forces and the importance of their role in the lives of members of the Armed Forces and veterans.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2009

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, May 7; following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and there be a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half; further, I ask that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate resume consideration of S. 454, the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009.

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

PROGRAM

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, roll-call votes in relation to the procurement bill are expected during tomorrow's session. Senators will be notified when the votes are scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mrs. MURRAY. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:01 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WILMA A. LEWIS, OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE C. STEPHEN ALLRED, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

CARMEN R. NAZARIO, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FAMILY SUPPORT, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, VICE DIANE D. RATH.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ERIC P. SCHWARTZ, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION), VICE ELLEN R. SAUERBREY.

ANDREW J. SHAPIRO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS), VICE MARK KIMMITT, RESIGNED.

ELLEN O. TAUSCHER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, VICE ROBERT JOSEPH, RESIGNED.