

Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009. Unfortunately, that amendment was not accepted.

For years it has been unclear to the acquisition community what, if any, the true order of preference is for determining which small business contracting program is at the top of the agency's priority list. The SBA's regulations state that there is parity among the programs, and this had been the general practice in effect until two Government Accountability Office decisions were released on September 19, 2008 and May 4, 2009.

The decisions stated that the Historically Underutilized Business Zone, HUBZone, program had preference over all other small business contracting programs. While the interpretation benefits HUBZone businesses, it comes at the expense of other vital small business contracting programs. This targeted bill provides equity for the SBA's small business contracting programs.

The bill provides Federal agencies with the necessary flexibility to satisfy their government-wide statutory small business contracting goals. This bill makes clear to purchasing agencies that contracting officers may award contracts to HUBZone, Service Disabled Veterans, 8(a), or women-owned firms with equal deference to each program. It would provide these agencies with the ability to achieve their goaling requirements equally through an award to a HUBZone firm, a service-disabled veteran-owned small business, and a small business participating in the 8(a) business development program. Of course this list will also include women-owned small businesses once the women's procurement program is fully implemented by the SBA.

In addition, this bill brings the SBA's contracting programs closer to true parity by giving HUBZones a subcontracting goal. HUBZones are the only small business contracting program without a subcontracting goal. In addition, the bill authorizes mentor protégé programs modeled after those used in the 8(a) program for HUBZones, service-disabled veteran and women-owned firms.

The essence of true parity is where each program has an equal chance of competing and being selected for an award. During these difficult economic times, it is imperative that small business contractors possess an equal opportunity to compete for Federal contracts on the same playing field with each other.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 218—MAKING MINORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 111TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 218

Resolved, That the following be the minority membership on the following committees for the remainder of the 111th Congress, or until their successors are appointed:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE NUTRITION AND FORESTRY: Mr. Chambliss, Mr. Lugar, Mr. Cochran, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Roberts, Mr. Johanns, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Thune, and Mr. Cornyn.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Lugar, Mr. Corker, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Risch, Mr. DeMint, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Wicker, and Mr. Inhofe.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Ms. Collins, Mr. Coburn, Mr. McCain, Mr. Voinovich, Mr. Ensign, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Bennett.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Ms. Snowe, Mr. Bond, Mr. Vitter, Mr. Thune, Mr. Enzi, Mr. Isakson, Mr. Wicker, and Mr. Risch.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Mr. Martinez, Mr. Shelby, Ms. Collins, Mr. Corker, Mr. Hatch, Mr. Brownback, Mr. Graham, and Mr. Chambliss.

SENATE RESOLUTION 219—HONORING THE HOCKEY TEAM OF EAST SIDE HIGH SCHOOL IN NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

Mr. MENENDEZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 219

Whereas adolescents who lack a structured, after-school environment are at high risk of delinquency, poor academic performance, and illicit behavior;

Whereas the lack of a structured after-school environment is especially prevalent in inner-city communities such as Newark, New Jersey;

Whereas athletic organizations provide a safe after-school environment in which adolescents learn about commitment, dedication, and teamwork;

Whereas East Side High School in Newark, New Jersey, formed a hockey team;

Whereas members of the East Side High School hockey team have shown resilience, dedication, and continuous improvement;

Whereas the New Jersey Devils offered assistance to the East Side High School hockey team, including access to the New Jersey Devils practice hockey rink; and

Whereas the nonprofit organization, Hockey in Newark, has joined with the New Jersey Devils and the National Hockey League to collect and distribute donated hockey equipment and uniforms valued at \$85,000 to low-income children in Newark, New Jersey: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the dedication of the players and coaches of the hockey team of East Side High School in Newark, New Jersey;

(2) wishes the East Side High School hockey team many successful seasons ahead; and

(3) commends the New Jersey Devils for engaging the local community and providing low-income, at-risk children the opportunity to play hockey.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 33—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT A COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP SHOULD BE ISSUED TO HONOR THE CREW OF THE USS MASON DE-529 WHO FOUGHT AND SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II.

Mr. BURRIS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was re-

ferred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. CON. RES. 33

Whereas the USS Mason DE-529 was the only United States Navy destroyer with a predominantly black enlisted crew during World War II;

Whereas the integration of the crew of the USS Mason DE-529 was the role model for racial integration on Navy vessels and served as a beacon for desegregation in the Navy;

Whereas the integration of the crew signified the first time that black citizens of the United States were trained to serve in ranks other than cooks and stewards;

Whereas the USS Mason DE-529 served as a convoy escort in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Theaters during World War II;

Whereas, in September 1944, the crew of the USS Mason DE-529 helped save Convoy NY119, ushering the convoy to safety despite a deadly storm in the Atlantic Ocean;

Whereas, in 1998, the Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton made an official decision to name an Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer the USS Mason DDG-87 in order to honor the USS Mason DE-529;

Whereas, in 1994, President Clinton awarded the USS Mason DE-529 a long-overdue commendation, presenting the award to 67 of the surviving crewmembers; and

Whereas commemorative postage stamps have been issued to honor important vessels, aircrafts, and battles in the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States Postal Service should issue a postage stamp honoring the crew of the USS Mason DE-529 who fought and served during World War II; and

(2) the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee should recommend to the Postmaster General that such a stamp be issued.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1647. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1648. Mrs. BOXER (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1649. Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1650. Mr. LIEBERMAN (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1651. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. LINCOLN, and Mr. BURRIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1652. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1653. Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1654. Mr. CORNYN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1655. Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. KYL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1656. Mr. CONRAD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1657. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1658. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1659. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1660. Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. WEBB, and Mr. WARNER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1661. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1662. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1663. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1664. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1665. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1666. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1667. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1668. Mr. GREGG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1669. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. BOND, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BURRIS, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1670. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1671. Mr. KYL (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. INHOFE, and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1672. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1673. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1674. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1675. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1676. Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1677. Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1678. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1679. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1680. Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. BOND, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BYRD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DORGAN, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1681. Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1682. Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. HATCH, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. DORGAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1683. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1684. Mr. THUNE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1685. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1686. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1687. Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1688. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1689. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1390, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1647. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1390, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military con-

struction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 213, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

SEC. 706. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON HEALTH CARE BENEFITS AND COSTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) Career members of the Armed Forces and their families endure unique and extraordinary demands, and make extraordinary sacrifices, over the course of 20-year to 30-year careers in protecting freedom for all Americans.

(2) The nature and extent of these demands and sacrifices are never so evident as in wartime, not only during the current combat operations, but also during the wars of the last 60 years when current retired members of the Armed Forces were on continuous call to go in harm's way when and as needed.

(3) A primary benefit of enduring the extraordinary sacrifices inherent in a military career is a range of retirement benefits, including lifetime health benefits, that a grateful Nation provides for those who choose to subordinate their personal life to the national interest for so many years.

(4) Currently serving and retired members of the uniformed services and their families and survivors deserve benefits equal to their commitment and service to our Nation.

(5) Many employers are curtailing health benefits and shifting costs to their employees, which may result in retired members of the Armed Forces returning to the Department of Defense, and its TRICARE program, for health care benefits during retirement, and contribute to health care cost growth.

(6) Defense health costs also expand as a result of service-unique military readiness requirements, wartime requirements, and other necessary requirements that represent the "cost of business" for the Department of Defense.

(7) While the Department of Defense has made some efforts to contain increases in the cost of the TRICARE program, too many of those efforts have been devoted to shifting a larger share of the costs of benefits under that program to retired members of the Armed Forces who have earned health care benefits in return for a career of military service.

(8) In some cases health care providers refuse to accept TRICARE patients because that program pays less than other public and private payors and imposes unique administrative requirements.

(9) The Department of Defense records deposits to the Department of Defense Military Retiree Health Care Fund as discretionary costs to the Department in spite of legislation enacted in 2006 that requires such deposits to be made directly from the Treasury of the United States.

(10) As a result, annual payments for the future costs of servicemember health care continue to compete with other readiness needs of the Armed Forces.

(b) SENSE OF SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Department of Defense and the Nation have an obligation to provide health care benefits to retired members of the Armed Forces that equals the quality of their selfless service to our country;

(2) past proposals by the Department of Defense to impose substantial fee increases