

legislation making improvements in health care, including, under subsection (a), legislation that reauthorizes the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP. The revisions are contingent on certain conditions being met, including that such legislation not worsen the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2018. In addition, section 227 limits the amount of the adjustment in outlays to no more than \$50 billion over the period of the total of fiscal years 2008 through 2013.

I find that Senate amendment No. 39, an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 2, the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, satisfies the conditions of the reserve fund to improve America's health. Therefore, pursuant to section 227, I am adjusting the aggregates in the 2009 budget resolution, as well as the allocation provided to the Senate Finance Committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 70 be printed in the RECORD.

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70: FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 227 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE AMERICA'S HEALTH

[In billions of dollars]

Section 101

(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2008	1,875.401
FY 2009	2,033.468
FY 2010	2,212.116
FY 2011	2,420.408
FY 2012	2,513.164
FY 2013	2,633.975
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2008	-3.999
FY 2009	-63.931
FY 2010	28.718
FY 2011	-7.662
FY 2012	-144.431
FY 2013	-116.244
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2008	2,564.237
FY 2009	2,548.889
FY 2010	2,574.071
FY 2011	2,701.088
FY 2012	2,744.638
FY 2013	2,871.918
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2008	2,466.678
FY 2009	2,575.667
FY 2010	2,630.249
FY 2011	2,718.860
FY 2012	2,728.215
FY 2013	2,861.791

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[In millions of dollars]

Current Allocation to Senate Fi-

nance Committee	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	1,102,801

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009—S. CON. RES. 70: FURTHER REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 227 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO IMPROVE AMERICA'S HEALTH—Continued

FY 2008 Outlays	1,104,781
FY 2009 Budget Authority	1,092,354
FY 2009 Outlays	1,093,724
FY 2009–2013 Budget Authority	6,161,994
FY 2009–2013 Outlays	6,170,488
Adjustments	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	0
FY 2008 Outlays	0
FY 2009 Budget Authority	10,621
FY 2009 Outlays	2,387
FY 2009–2013 Budget Authority	50,062
FY 2009–2013 Outlays	32,819
Revised Allocation to Senate Fi-	
nance Committee	
FY 2008 Budget Authority	1,102,801
FY 2008 Outlays	1,104,781
FY 2009 Budget Authority	1,102,975
FY 2009 Outlays	1,096,111
FY 2009–2013 Budget Authority	6,212,056
FY 2009–2013 Outlays	6,203,307

GEITHNER NOMINATION

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate confirmed Timothy Geithner as the Secretary of Treasury with my support. Mr. Geithner has the experience and the knowledge to lead the country through these economic hard times.

The Treasury Department is facing an uphill battle to provide appropriate monetary policy and regulations to get our economy back on track. Congress has been working with Federal Reserve and the Treasury Department to find ways to jump-start our economy. Congress recently approved the release of the second half of the TARP funds and is working with the new administration to create an effective economic stimulus package. I am pleased that President Obama and Mr. Geithner have committed themselves to restructuring the TARP but stress the importance of reforms which increase accountability, transparency, and help homeowners. Furthermore, the Treasury Secretary must implement meaningful and effective policies to avoid another system-wide failure and promote long-term economic stability. Mr. Geithner's career in the Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York has made him well qualified for the difficult task at hand.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to discuss my vote against the nomination of Mr. Timothy F. Geithner to be Secretary of the Treasury.

I was originally inclined to support the nomination to enable President Obama to get his team together and begin addressing the economic crisis. As I have said publicly, I want to be supportive of President Obama and I understand the importance of assembling his full economic team to address

the critical problems facing our Nation's economy. After considerable thought, I have decided I cannot support this nomination. I have since taken a close look at the circumstances of Mr. Geithner's failure to pay Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes from 2001 to 2004 while an employee at the International Monetary Fund—IMF. Then, I spoke to Finance Committee ranking member CHUCK GRASSLEY who provided some additional insight. Based on those factors, I decided to vote against Mr. Geithner.

International organizations such as the IMF are exempt from the employer contribution of payroll taxes, so U.S. citizens who work there are required to pay their portion as if they are self-employed. During an IRS audit conducted in 2006, it was discovered that Mr. Geithner failed to pay these taxes and he then paid what was owed for tax years 2003 and 2004. Despite having made the same error in previous years, he did not pay for 2001 and 2002 because the statute of limitations had expired. Only after the non-payment was discovered during the vetting process by the Obama transition team in late-2008 did Mr. Geithner finally pay for tax years 2001 and 2002.

Mr. Geithner was paid an extra sum, or tax allowance, by the IMF with the expectation that he would use it to pay the IRS for his payroll tax liabilities. According to remarks by Senator GRASSLEY at Mr. Geithner's confirmation hearing, "Furthermore, the nominee received a tax allowance from the IMF to pay the difference between the 'self-employed' and 'employed' obligations of his Social Security tax." At his confirmation hearing, Mr. Geithner acknowledged receiving various documents detailing his obligations as an American employee at the IMF. The IMF provides its employees with a tax manual at the time they are hired that includes information describing how to pay self-employment taxes. Page 2 of the document states, "U.S. citizens who are staff members are required to pay U.S. tax are entitled to receive tax allowances." Page 12 of the document states, "Employees of international organizations are considered self-employed for purposes of social security taxes. As such, they must pay both the employer's and the employee's share of social security taxes. The Fund gives you a tax allowance for the employer's share of social security taxes only. You are responsible for the employee's portion of this tax." Mr. Geithner signed a document each year in order to receive this extra tax allowance. At the end of the tax allowance form are the words, "I hereby certify that all the information contained herein is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and that I will pay the taxes for which I have received tax allowance payments

from the Fund.” Also, the IMF provides its employees with detailed statements of their liabilities.

These errors set a bad example for other taxpayers when the Government seeks to collect back taxes. We can be assured that the precedent set by Mr. Geithner’s neglect will be cited repeatedly by future offenders. Mr. Geithner’s conduct would be problemsome on the confirmation of any high-level officers, but especially so for Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary has within his jurisdiction the Internal Revenue Service which is responsible for collecting taxes. With the full Senate confirming Mr. Geithner, it is a virtual certainty that other taxpayers will cite his situation as a reason or excuse for their not having paid taxes. If the issue of failure to pay taxes goes to court in either civil or criminal proceedings, it will be an obvious defense or argument by defense counsel in mitigation or defense.

President Obama has placed ethics reform as a top priority for his administration. In his inaugural address, he said, “Those of us who manage the public’s dollars will be held to account, to spend wisely, reform bad habits, and do our business in the light of day, because only then can we restore the vital trust between a people and their government.” That is the appropriate tone to set an example, especially for young people, where in the past election there has been a resurgence of interest in voting and government. We ought to do everything we can to maintain that interest and momentum.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I also wish to discuss the precarious state of our United States economy, which is facing one of the most dire economic crises in history. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I understand that it is imperative that the Federal Government use all means at its disposal to address these problems.

It is critical as we move forward that the Appropriations Committee and the Senate focus on spending our Nation’s dollars on worthwhile projects, which both benefit the American people on their merits and will also lead to an increase in jobs.

To this end, I wish to highlight a few projects in my home State of Pennsylvania which appear to have significant potential to stimulate economic investment, as well as return our unemployed workers to the workforce.

The fastest way to put people to work on transportation infrastructure projects is to finance highway repairs. These repairs support construction jobs that can start immediately. Additionally, infrastructure repairs ensure an acceptable level of safety and reliability on existing highway networks, which is critical in a State like Pennsylvania that has 6,000 structurally-deficient bridges.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Pennsyl-

vania could obligate \$1.5 billion on 313 shovel-ready highway repair projects. These projects all focus on Pennsylvania’s bridge deficiencies, pavement needs and safety concerns, as well as create jobs and achieve meaningful infrastructure improvements. Additionally, all of the highway infrastructure repairs can be put out to bid within 6 months, with construction starting shortly thereafter.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation has also provided me with a list of 147 public transportation projects totaling \$700 million that, according to transit agencies around the State, are ready to begin. The projects include replacing catenary pole involved in electrified train service, station improvements, alternative fuel bus purchases and intermodal centers.

The Port of Pittsburgh Commission in Pennsylvania has identified over \$580 million in shovel-ready project work that could be started in 6 months, of which \$430 million could be completed in 2 years and the remaining \$150 million could be completed in 3 years.

The largest share of that money would be applied to the Lower Monongahela Improvement Project for Locks and Dams 2-3-4, a project 5 years behind the original completion date of 2004. Without investment from the economic stimulus, the project will not otherwise be completed until the 2019-2022 period. Stimulus funding could result in a working, reliable chamber, a major improvement over the current schedule. Funding can also be provided for emergency repairs to Emsworth Dam.

These projects would add or preserve tens of thousands of high-skilled, high-paying jobs for the southwest Pennsylvania region, including permanent employees at facilities that depend on river transportation, such as U.S. Steel’s Clairton Coke Works, ArcelorMittal’s Coke Works, Eastman Materials, Welland Chemical, Kinder Morgan, Ashland Petroleum, Consol Energy and the Elrama Power Plant.

Previous delays have resulted in increasing costs, interruptions to service and benefits foregone. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers calculates that the region has already lost over \$1.2 billion in benefits that can never be recuperated.

Health care is one of the largest drivers of our economy and a worthwhile investment in the physical and economic health of the country.

In 2002, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Medical Education Development Consortium was formed to explore the feasibility of locating a new medical college in northeastern Pennsylvania. A 2006 feasibility study made the need for a medical school clear. This region of Pennsylvania has shortages of physicians in many specialties and over one-third of the practicing physicians are expected to retire in the next decade.

To address this critical need, the Commonwealth Medical College is

scheduled to open in 2009 and has already received investments of \$35 million from the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program and \$25 million from Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, as well as State, Federal, and private philanthropic sources.

Additional funding will be used to support construction of the college, which will attract medical and biomedical research to northeastern Pennsylvania, improving the local and regional economy, as well as the health of the population. Over the next 20 years, the Commonwealth Medical College is expected to greatly increase the number of physicians in the area, add \$70 million to the local economy and create 1,000 jobs.

This project also has national implications, as the research conducted there will focus on healthcare conditions affecting the aging population, including research on cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

There are numerous higher education projects throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which exemplify the types of activities that this country should target as it searches for an effective means to stimulate the economy. These meritorious projects provide necessary infrastructure improvements to many colleges and universities in my home State, while at the same time creating a myriad of new jobs and stimulating the economy. It is my understanding that all of these projects are ready for construction within 6 months or sooner.

Specifically, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, which represents 14 public universities in my home State, provided me with a list of 47 projects totaling \$445 million. These programs focus on new building construction, renovations to existing buildings and energy conservation measures. The Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges, which represents the 14 community colleges throughout Pennsylvania, also provided me with a list of 34 projects totaling \$128 million. Selected projects include building renovation and construction, public safety programs, infrastructure repairs and upgrades, and new resources for education and training.

In regard to the private colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Pennsylvania, which represents 86 private institutions, provided me with a list of 42 projects totaling \$385 million. Many of these projects focus on the construction of new academic buildings, the renovation and expansion of training facilities and improvements to existing infrastructure.

In many cities and small towns in Pennsylvania aging sewer pipes and treatment plants are malfunctioning, leading to sewage contamination of local freshwater. In many areas across Pennsylvania, and the country, water