

savings for anything—found that people who went through a lifestyle program had the same or lower costs over three years than as Medicare beneficiaries who didn't go through the program.

In times like these, the American people want to know that the Medicare program is going to get their money's worth. The Take Back Your Health Act embraces a pay-for-performance type system. Doctors are paid a bundled payment to encourage efficiency and teamwork, and they are held responsible for their success. If a patient's health status does not improve according to at least two measures, the doctor doesn't get paid. In addition, if a patient goes through the program for diabetes, but still has problems and has to go to the hospital, the lifestyle treatment doctor doesn't get paid.

The last innovation in this program is that it gives individuals a financial incentive for getting healthier. Every person who goes through this treatment program and improves his or her health status gets a one-time \$200 reward.

The beauty of this bill is that everyone has skin in the game: the doctor, the patient, and the government. That will be the secret of its success. It is just this kind of innovative program that can be a real game-changer for Medicare and for our entire health care system, by bringing the focus of our health care system back to the basics of making us healthier.

I look forward to working with Chairman BAUCUS and Senator GRASSLEY on including this bill in health reform. I urge my colleagues to join me as cosponsors on this bill.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 1643. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit for the conversion of heating using oil fuel to using natural gas or biomass feedstocks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, addressing our Nation's dependence on imported oil and our greenhouse gas emissions will require policies that extend across the economy, as well as policies that are more narrowly tailored to specific sectors. Today, I rise with my colleague from Maine, Senator SNOWE, to offer a bill that would enhance energy security and reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with heating our nation's homes and buildings. Our bill, the Cleaner, Secure and Affordable Thermal Energy Act, creates significant incentives for consumers, businesses, and tax-exempt entities that now rely on heating oil to convert to energy-efficient natural gas or biomass heating systems.

Across the country, and particularly in the Northeast and Midwest, many homes and buildings still derive heat from oil-burning furnaces. According to the Energy Information Administration, in 2007, our Nation consumed

nearly 160 million barrels of oil for heating fuel. This use of heating oil continues despite the existence of widely available alternatives that are cleaner, more secure, and more affordable.

On April 22, I held a hearing in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee on the Energy Efficiency Resource Standards. The Committee heard from several witnesses about the advantages of and efforts to convert residential, business, and public users from fuel oil to natural gas and biomass heating systems. For each household that converts from fuel oil to a natural gas heating system, we avoid 2.1 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. For each commercial building, we avoid 9.9 metric tons, and for each industrial facility, we avoid as much as 2,984 metric tons. These emission reductions are even more significant for conversions to heating systems that are fired by biomass resources.

Besides being cleaner, natural gas and biomass are far more secure resources. Ninety-eight percent of domestically consumed natural gas is produced in North America, and domestic reserves of natural gas are estimated at 100 years based on current consumption.

Finally, since the price of natural gas and biomass is lower and less volatile than the price oil, converting offers significant short- and long-term cost savings to consumers. For instance, while the average annual cost of using fuel oil for home heating averages \$1,734, the average annual cost of operating a natural gas furnace is \$1,004.

But significant up-front costs prevent many families and businesses from converting their heating systems.

The Cleaner, Secure and Affordable Thermal Energy Act will make these conversions more affordable for American families, businesses, and tax-exempt entities.

First, for residential consumers, the Act establishes a 30 percent tax credit for costs associated with converting from a fuel oil to natural gas or biomass heating system. The credit is capped at \$3,500, \$4,000 in the case of biomass stoves. To qualify, the replacement equipment must be energy efficient; a natural gas boiler must have an AFUE rating of at least 85 percent, a replacement natural gas furnace must have an AFUE rating of at least 92 percent, and a replacement biomass appliance must have a thermal efficiency rating of more than 75 percent.

For business taxpayers, the act authorizes bonus depreciation for property installed before 2012. This would enable business taxpayers to expense—that is, immediately write-off—half of the cost of qualifying property, and depreciate the remaining balance over the typical cost-recovery period.

Many of the Nation's heating oil systems are used by public entities, particularly school systems. To help public entities finance their conversions to natural gas and biomass heating, the

Act adds conversion programs as an activity eligible for Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds.

Finally, to encourage expansion of natural gas service capabilities, the act includes a two-year extension of the 15-year depreciation schedule created for distribution facilities under the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

The act would move us significantly in the direction of a low-carbon economy while enhancing energy security and reducing heating costs. I look forward to working with Senator SNOWE to enacting our bill into law.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 245—RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A "NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE"

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. CASEY, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DODD, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 245

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, terrorists ruthlessly attacked the United States, leading to the tragic deaths and injuries of thousands of innocent United States citizens and other citizens from more than 90 different countries and territories;

Whereas in response to the attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, physicians, nurses, military personnel, and other first responders immediately and without concern for their own well-being rose to service, in a heroic attempt to protect the lives of those still at risk, consequently saving thousands of men and women;

Whereas in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, thousands of recovery workers, including trades personnel, iron workers, equipment operators, and many others, joined with firemen, police officers, and military personnel to help to search for and recover victims lost in the terrorist attacks;

Whereas in the days, weeks, and months following the attacks, thousands of people in the United States and others spontaneously volunteered to help support the rescue and recovery efforts, braving both physical and emotional hardship;

Whereas many first responders, rescue and recovery workers, and volunteers, as well as survivors of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, continue to suffer from serious medical illnesses and emotional distress related to the physical and mental trauma of the 9/11 tragedy;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of brave men and women continue to serve every day, having answered the call to duty as members of the United States Armed Forces, with thousands having given their lives or suffered injury to defend our Nation's security and prevent future terrorist attacks;

Whereas the entire Nation witnessed and shared in the tragedy of September 11, 2001, and in the immediate aftermath of the attacks became unified under a remarkable spirit of service and compassion that inspired and helped heal the Nation;

Whereas in the years immediately following the attacks of September 11, 2001, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics documented

a marked increase in volunteerism among the people of the United States;

Whereas families of 9/11 victims, survivors, first responders, rescue and recovery workers, and volunteers called for Congress to pass legislation to formally authorize the establishment of September 11 as an annually recognized "National Day of Service and Remembrance", and for the President of the United States to proclaim the day as such;

Whereas, in 2004, Congress unanimously passed H. Con. Res. 473, expressing the sense of Congress that it is appropriate to observe the anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, with voluntary acts of service and compassion;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of people in the United States from all 50 States, as well as others who live in 170 different countries, annually observe the anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001, by personally engaging in service, good deeds, and other charitable acts; and

Whereas, on March 31, 2009, Congress passed the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, which included for the first time authorization and Federal recognition of September 11 as a "National Day of Service and Remembrance", a bill signed into law on April 21, 2009, by President Barack Obama: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls upon all people in the United States to annually observe a "National Day of Service and Remembrance", with appropriate and personal expressions of reflection, including performing good deeds, attending memorial and remembrance services, and voluntarily engaging in community service or other charitable activities of their own choosing in honor of those who lost their lives or were injured in the attacks of September 11, 2001, in tribute to those who rose to come to the aid of those in need, and in defense of our Nation; and

(2) urges all people in the United States to continue to live their lives throughout the year with the same spirit of unity, service, and compassion that was exhibited throughout the Nation following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

SENATE RESOLUTION 246—REQUIRING THAT LEGISLATION CONSIDERED BY THE SENATE TO BE CONFINED TO A SINGLE ISSUE

Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 246

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SINGLE ISSUE REQUIREMENT.

(a) POINT OF ORDER.—It shall not be in order in the Senate to consider a bill or resolution that is not confined to a single subject.

(b) SUPERMAJORITY WAIVER AND APPEALS.—(1) WAIVER.—This section may be waived or suspended in the Senate only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members, duly chosen and sworn.

(2) APPEALS.—Appeals in the Senate from the decisions of the Chair relating to any provision of this section shall be limited to 30 minutes, to be equally divided between, and controlled by, the appellant and the manager of the bill or joint resolution. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, shall be required to sustain an appeal of the ruling of the Chair on a point of order raised under this section.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the legislative climate the United States Senate has found itself operating in. Like many of my colleagues, I began my political career in local government. I was mayor in my hometown and then served as a legislator in the Wyoming State Legislature. It was during this time I learned that the most effective legislation comes from a process that is transparent and focused. For example, the Wyoming State Legislature requires that all bills must be focused on one issue. They cannot be loaded up with random provisions, riders, and add-ons that have nothing to do with the overall legislation. In Congress, we often use omnibus bills to pass multiple legislative items that should be considered on their own merit. Omnibus often create more problems in the long run than they solve.

Instead of focusing on one policy issue at a time, we have allowed legislative logjams to foul up the Senate's work and ill-considered legislation to be hastily pushed through this institution. These legislative practices, which have become the norm are a gangrene that eats away at this institution.

Legislation that is fundamental to our country's wellbeing has become politicized and burdened with extraneous provisions that have not been fully vetted through the regular order. Most of the time Members have not had the opportunity to read the bills they are voting on, let alone the public which will have to live under and pay for whatever lurks in the unseen pages. By tolerating this behavior, the Senate is allowing legislation needed to address our Nation's most pressing challenges to go through unrefined and lousy with special interest provisions.

To help bring this institution back in line with its original purpose, today I submit my Single Issue Legislation resolution. I want this resolution to be a starting point for changing the attitude the Senate has toward building bills. It will allow us to focus on getting individual issues addressed more effectively. Specifically, this resolution enacts a standing order that creates a point of order against a bill or resolution that is not confined to a single issue. This point of order can only be overruled by a supermajority.

My Single Issue Legislation gives the Senate the flexibility in the amendment process it has always enjoyed and allows the Senate as a legislative body to develop the structure and scope of the standing order through practice and precedent rather than through arbitrary rules. At the same time, we ensure that our legislative process is focused and productive. In short, we bring ourselves back to how the Founding Fathers intended and wanted our legislative process to operate.

Our job is not to score political points by stuffing as many pet projects and knee-jerk provisions as we can into bills, but rather to represent the needs of our constituents, our States, and our

country by doing what is best for us as a nation. We must get back to a better process for crafting and considering legislation so that we can enact effective policies to meet the many challenges we face today. This is why we were elected to serve in the United States Senate. We owe it to the people we represent to work through a process that allows legislation to be properly and thoroughly considered and debated. My Single Issue Legislation resolution helps us do just that.

SENATE RESOLUTION 247—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 26, 2009, AS "NATIONAL ESTUARIES DAY"

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BURR, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GREGG, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 247

Whereas the estuary regions of the United States comprise a significant share of the national economy, with 43 percent of the population, 40 percent of employment, and 49 percent of economic output located in such regions;

Whereas coasts and estuaries contribute more than \$800,000,000,000 annually in trade and commerce to the Nation's economy;

Whereas more than 43 percent of all adults in the United States visit a sea coast or estuary at least once a year to participate in some form of recreation, generating \$8,000,000,000 to \$12,000,000,000 in revenue annually;

Whereas more than 28,000,000 jobs in the United States are supported through commercial and recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and other coastal industries that rely on healthy estuaries;

Whereas estuaries provide vital habitat for countless species of fish and wildlife, including many that are listed as threatened or endangered;

Whereas estuaries provide critical ecosystem services that protect human health and public safety, including water filtration, flood control, shoreline stabilization and erosion prevention, and protection of coastal communities during extreme weather events;

Whereas 55,000,000 acres of estuarine habitat have been destroyed over the last 100 years;

Whereas bays once filled with fish and oysters have become dead zones filled with excess nutrients, chemical wastes, and harmful algae;

Whereas sea level rise is accelerating the degradation of estuaries by submerging low-lying lands, eroding beaches, converting wetlands to open water, exacerbating coastal flooding, and increasing the salinity of estuaries and freshwater aquifers;

Whereas in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.), Congress found and declared that it is national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, to restore or enhance, the resources of the Nation's coastal zone, including estuaries, for current and future generations;

Whereas estuary restoration efforts cost-effectively restore natural infrastructure in local communities, helping to create jobs and reestablish the natural functions of estuaries that yield countless benefits; and