

Children, an organization of more than 8,000 parents, teachers, education professionals, and community leaders united in support of high-achieving kids and their unique needs.

Of course we all want to ensure that every child—no matter what their strengths and weaknesses, no matter what their grades or test scores, no matter what their economic background—can get a good education that prepares them for the 21st century economy.

Every child who falls through the cracks represents a tragedy. When those who have displayed such tremendous potential are left behind, we all suffer. This legislation offers a step towards keeping those kids challenged, engaged—and in school.

I want to thank Senator GRASSLEY for joining me in this effort, and encourage our colleagues to join as well.

By Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN):

S. 3088. A bill to reduce the number of executive branch political appointments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I am pleased to be joined by my good friend the senior Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN, in introducing legislation to reduce the number of presidential political appointees. Specifically, the bill caps the number of political appointees at 2,000. When I previously introduced this legislation, the Congressional Budget Office estimates it would save \$382 million over the next 5 years and over \$872 over the next 10 years.

The bill is based on recommendations of a number of distinguished panels, including the 1996 Twentieth Century Fund Task Force on the Presidential Appointment Process. The Task Force findings, which are still very relevant today, are part of a long line of recommendations that we reduce the number of political appointees in the Executive Branch. For many years, the proposal has been included in CBO's annual publication *Reducing the Deficit: Spending and Revenue Options*, and it was one of the central recommendations of the National Commission on the Public Service, chaired by former Federal Reserve Board Chairman and current economic advisor to President Obama, Paul Volcker.

This proposal is also consistent with the recommendations of former Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review, which called for reductions in the number of federal managers and supervisors, arguing that "over-control and micro management" not only "stifle the creativity of line managers and workers, they consume billions per year in salary, benefits, and administrative costs."

Those sentiments were also expressed in the 1989 and 2003 Volcker Commission reports, which argued the growing number of presidential appointees may "actually undermine effective presidential control of the executive

branch." The first Volcker Commission recommended limiting the number of political appointees to 2,000, as this legislation does.

It is essential that any administration be able to implement the policies that brought it into office in the first place. Government must be responsive to the priorities of the electorate. But as the Volcker Commissions noted, the great increase in the number of political appointees in recent years has not made government more effective or more responsive to political leadership.

Between 1980 and 2008 the ranks of political appointees rose by more than 27 percent whereas between that same period, excluding the defense sector, the civilian workforce remained consistent at about 1.1 to 1.2 million.

In recommending a cap on political appointees, the 1989 and 2003 Volcker Commission reports noted that the large number of presidential appointees simply cannot be managed effectively by any President or White House. The 1989 Commission argued that this lack of control and political focus "may actually dilute the President's ability to develop and enforce a coherent, coordinated program and to hold cabinet secretaries accountable."

Adding organizational layers of political appointees can also restrict access to important resources, while doing nothing to reduce bureaucratic impediments.

In commenting on this problem, author Paul Light noted, "As this sediment has thickened over the decades, presidents have grown increasingly distant from the lines of government, and the front lines from them." Light added that "Presidential leadership, therefore, may reside in stripping government of the barriers to doing its job effectively. . ."

The Volcker Commission also asserted that this thickening barrier of temporary appointees between the President and career officials can undermine development of a proficient civil service by discouraging talented individuals from remaining in government service or even pursuing a career in government in the first place.

Former Attorney General Elliot Richardson put it well when he noted:

But a White House personnel assistant sees the position of deputy assistant secretary as a fourth-echelon slot. In his eyes that makes it an ideal reward for a fourth-echelon political type—a campaign advance man, or a regional political organizer. For a senior civil servant, it's irksome to see a position one has spent 20-30 years preparing for pre-empted by an outsider who doesn't know the difference between an audit exception and an authorizing bill.

The 2003 Volcker Commission report identified another problem aggravated by the mushrooming number of political appointees, namely the increasingly lengthy process of filling these thousands of positions. As the Commission reported, both President Bush and President Clinton were into their presidencies for many months before their leadership teams were fully in place.

The Commission noted that on average, appointees in both administrations were confirmed more than eight months after the inauguration, one-sixth of an entire presidential term. By contrast, the report noted that in the presidential transition of 1960, Kennedy appointees were confirmed, on average, 2½ months after the inauguration.

In addition to leaving vacancies among key leadership positions in government, the appointment process delays can have a detrimental effect on potential appointees. The 2003 Volcker Commission reported that, "Potential appointees sometimes decline to enter government service when confronted by this process. Others drop out along the way. But the principal impact of the modern appointments process is the delay it imposes on the staffing of new administrations."

The Clinton administration made modest reductions in the number of political appointees but the numbers have steadily increased in the past decade.

As we scour the Federal budget for wasteful or unnecessary spending, we can't overlook spending that many in Washington may well wish to retain. The test of commitment to deficit reduction is not simply to support measures that impact someone else. By reducing the number of political appointees, we can ensure a sufficient number remain to implement the policies of any administration without burdening the Federal budget with unnecessary, possibly counterproductive political jobs.

Reducing the Federal deficit and balancing the budget is something that has been central to my Senate career, from the 82 point plan I brought to the Senate in 1993 to my most recent Control Spending Now Act, which would cut the deficit by around \$500 billion.

The legislation I am introducing today reflects one of the points included on the original 82 point plan calling for streamlining various Federal agencies and reducing agency overhead costs, and it will be added to my Control Spending Now Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in reducing the deficit and reforming government.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 446—COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mr. CASEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 446

Whereas the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968, and entered into force on March 5, 1970, has limited the spread of the most dangerous weapons across the globe for 40 years;

Whereas the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (also known as the

NPT) is the cornerstone of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime;

Whereas 189 members of the United Nations have acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, only three states have never signed it, and only one, North Korea, has declared its withdrawal from the Treaty;

Whereas more countries have ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons than any other arms control or nonproliferation agreement in history;

Whereas the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons commits non-nuclear weapon states that want to benefit from the peaceful application of nuclear technology not to develop nuclear weapons and commits the 5 recognized nuclear weapon states to take measures to achieve, at the earliest possible date, the elimination of their nuclear weapon stockpiles;

Whereas the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons assigns to the International Atomic Energy Agency the responsibility of maintaining a safeguards system to verify that non-nuclear weapons states party to the Treaty are not diverting nuclear technology from peaceful uses to nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices;

Whereas, as of December 15, 2009, only 94 countries and one regional organization had brought into force an Additional Protocol to their Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency;

Whereas President John F. Kennedy stated that nuclear weapons pose "the greatest possible danger" to the United States and warned that the United States could soon face a world in which there were 15-20 nuclear weapon states, but today, as a result of the global norms and mutual assurances established by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the world has only 9 presumed nuclear weapons states;

Whereas United States policies and bilateral and multilateral treaties have reduced the number of nuclear weapons in the world from a Cold War high of approximately 70,000 to approximately 24,000, and the United States has reduced its stockpile of nuclear weapons from a high of 32,000 warheads and bombs to fewer than 10,000 today;

Whereas, at the fifth Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, in 1995, states party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons agreed to extend the Treaty indefinitely;

Whereas the seventh Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, in 2005, failed to respond collectively on a number of issues, including noncompliance, nuclear programs in Iran and North Korea, the withdrawal clause, nuclear terrorism, clandestine nuclear supply networks, negative security assurances, nuclear disarmament, the nuclear fuel cycle, and enforcement mechanisms;

Whereas, on September 24, 2009, a United Nations Security Council summit chaired by President Barack Obama unanimously adopted United Nations Security Council Resolution 1887, which reaffirms the Security Council's commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, calls on states not yet signatories to accede to the Treaty, urges full compliance with the Treaty by member states, including members facing "major challenges" with their obligations, and sets goals to strengthen the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at the 2010 Review Conference;

Whereas the eighth Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference will take place May 3-28, 2010, in New York to discuss disarmament, security assurances, nonproliferation, peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the nuclear fuel cycle, the mandate of the International Atomic Energy Agency, safety and

security of nuclear material, universality, Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones, export controls, and the Treaty's withdrawal clause; and

Whereas the eighth Review Conference presents an opportunity to refocus states party to the NPT on the danger that the spread of nuclear weapons poses, to discuss potential ways to deal with countries that continue to pose a nuclear security threat, and to find common solutions so as to further reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world and enable increased use of nuclear energy while improving safeguards to ensure that illicit nuclear programs are not occurring: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) reaffirms its support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to further reduce the number of nuclear weapons, and to promote the sharing of nuclear energy technology for peaceful purposes;

(2) urges the President to work to achieve universality in adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;

(3) encourages the President to work with international partners of the United States and states party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to have the Model Additional Protocol to Comprehensive Safeguards Agreements become the global standard for safeguards and a requirement for nuclear commerce;

(4) urges the President to ensure that the International Atomic Energy Agency has the necessary resources, personnel, and technology to conduct its oversight responsibilities as they relate to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; and

(5) encourages the President to work with other states party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to strengthen enforcement mechanisms and develop collective responses to any notification of withdrawal from the Treaty.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 447—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE SHOULD ISSUE A SEMIPOSTAL STAMP TO SUPPORT MEDICAL RESEARCH RELATING TO ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Ms. MIKULSKI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 447

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States Postal Service should, in accordance with section 416 of title 39, United States Code—

(1) issue a semipostal stamp to support medical research relating to Alzheimer's disease; and

(2) transfer to the National Institutes of Health for that purpose any amounts becoming available from the sale of such stamp.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution urging the U.S. Postal Service to issue a semipostal stamp to help raise money for Alzheimer's research. A semipostal stamp will fund new research while also raising public awareness about this devastating disease.

Finding new ways to treat Alzheimer's should be a national priority. The disease not only harms patients and their families, it strains our health

care system as well. Every 70 seconds, someone in America develops Alzheimer's. An estimated 5.3 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, including one in eight people over 65. The direct and indirect costs of Alzheimer's and other dementias to Medicare, Medicaid and businesses amount to more than \$148 billion each year. By 2050, this disease is likely to affect more than 11 million people 65 and older—unless we can find a medical breakthrough.

In addition to this resolution, I am also the sponsor of the Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act. The act would increase overall funding for Alzheimer's research at NIH, establish a national summit to identify priorities and maximize resources in our fight for better treatments and a cure, and expand the Alzheimer's State Matching Grant Program. I am hopeful the Senate will pass the Breakthrough Act this year in addition to the resolution I am introducing today.

A semipostal stamp is one more way each of us can help in the fight against Alzheimer's. Proceeds from the stamp's sales would fund Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health. By paying more than the normal postage rate for this stamp, the public could contribute directly to the search for a new treatment or even a cure. I ask my colleagues today to join me in the fight against Alzheimer's and support this resolution.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3431. Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3432. Mr. AKAKA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3433. Mr. SPECTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3434. Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3435. Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3436. Mr. INOUE (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. TESTER, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3437. Mr. HARKIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.