

The amendment is further modified by striking the word “ending” on pages 58, 63, and 67 and inserting the word “beginning”.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 4213 and all postcloture time be considered expired, and upon disposition of the pending amendments, no further amendments or motions be in order; the substitute amendment, as amended, be agreed to; that the Senate then proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 4213, as amended, with the mandatory quorum waived; that if cloture is invoked, then all postcloture time be yielded back, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate then proceed to vote on passage of the bill.

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

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I voted against waving a budget point of order to the Murray/Kerry amendment on the grounds that it is not paid for and contained terrible welfare and Medicare policies.

The Congress cannot keep spending money it does not have. It is unconscionable to put forth an amendment that is not being paid for at a time of exploding deficits to an underlying bill that already has another \$104 billion not paid for.

In addition to adding to the deficit during a fiscal crisis, the underlying Murray/Kerry amendment perpetuates flawed welfare policies that undermine key principles of welfare reform.

The Murray/Kerry amendment perpetuates the fund established in the stimulus bill that, for the first time since the landmark 1996 welfare reform act, rewards States for increasing their welfare caseload and does not require these additional eligible adults to participate in work, education or training activities.

This in turn adds to the current deplorable situation where, according to the latest data we have from the Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. average for eligible adults receiving welfare doing nothing is 56 percent.

That is right—on average 56 percent of adults receiving welfare are engaged in zero hours of work, training or education activity. Some States have over 70 percent of eligible adults doing nothing.

That is zero hours of job search. Zero hours of education. Zero hours of substance abuse treatment. Zero hours of job training. Zero hours of subsidized work activities.

I bet if you asked the American people—how many adults on welfare should be doing something to qualify for their welfare check—I bet the answer would be: all of them!

I bet if the American people knew that the majority of adults on welfare were doing nothing, they would be as stunned and appalled as I am.

We need to do better by these families. Allowing them to languish in the

soul crushing, deep and persistent poverty of welfare is a travesty. The Murray/Kerry amendment does nothing to address the issue that the majority of adults on welfare are not doing anything to get themselves out of poverty.

That makes no sense, Mr. President, and I cannot support it.

Finally, in addition to the misguided welfare policies, I also had reservations about the use of “intelligent assignment” in Part D to pay for this amendment. I fully support efforts to make sure vulnerable populations are in the lowest cost plan that meets their personal health care needs and look forward to continuing to work on this issue in the future. But the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, and MedPAC commissioners have raised concerns that “intelligent assignment” could lead to increased disruption, higher costs and little overall improvement for beneficiaries.

Therefore, I opposed waving the Budget Act that would have allowed the Murray/Kerry amendment to undermine welfare policy, advance misguided Medicare policy and increase the deficit.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day—an occasion that celebrates the many contributions women have made to our communities, societies, and nations. Women have made great progress, but the sad reality is that women around the world are not participating equally in business or politics, are not paid the equivalent of their male counterparts, and are more likely to be denied educational opportunities, property ownership, and other basic rights.

The inequities facing women today represent some of the world's greatest global-development challenges. Investing in women is vital to the world's growth potential. I have introduced two bills this Congress that take important steps towards equity and human rights for women worldwide.

In July 2009, I introduced the Global Resources and Opportunities for Women to Thrive—GROWTH—Act of 2009. The GROWTH Act is designed to reduce these economic inequities in developing countries. By providing women with the economic resources to start and grow their own businesses, the GROWTH Act would create broad educational, legal, and community-based programs that would promote female property ownership and empower women in their communities.

Today, women account for 64 percent of adults who lack basic literacy skills, 70 percent of the hungry, and 56 percent of those subject to forced labor.

Women typically invest 90 percent of their income back into their household compared to only 30 to 40 percent by men. Developing programs that allow women to increase their education and thrive professionally is good for the family, as well as the woman.

In May 2009, I also introduced the International Protecting Girls by Preventing Child Marriage Act. This bill sets out to strategically eliminate the harmful practice of child marriage overseas. Child marriage poses a direct threat to investments in education for girls overseas, HIV/AIDS prevention, poverty reduction, maternal and child safety, and human rights.

Too often the potential of children and developing women is crushed by early marriage, sometimes occurring when girls are as young as 7 years of age. Child marriage is a direct challenge to guaranteeing equality and basic human rights to children and developing women around the globe.

International Women's Day calls on us to acknowledge the achievements of women, but it is also a reminder of the sometimes immovable barriers women in many countries still face. I commend my colleague Senator SHAHEEN for submitting S. Res. 433 recognizing International Women's Day. This resolution is a testament to the Senate's commitment to the advancement of women worldwide.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my support for the International Women's Day.

Rooted in the long-term struggle for equality, International Women's Day has been observed since the beginning of the last century, at a time when American women were fighting for basic rights, such as voting or fair employment. We should commemorate the determined and courageous women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

While women have made hard fought and important strides towards equality since then, they continue to face significant obstacles in all aspects of their lives, particularly those living in poverty. Over a billion people worldwide live on a dollar a day or less—and women are most likely to be among them. This is a problem that affects all of humanity—when women are poor, entire communities suffer because they are not free to earn an income, feed their families, or protect themselves and their children from violence. And their efforts are critical to rebuilding countries in peril like Afghanistan and Haiti. Until women around the world have improved access to economic, political and social opportunities, the great challenges we face today will go unresolved.

Indeed, investing in women and girls is one of the most efficient uses of our foreign assistance dollars and best ways to make the world more peaceful

and prosperous. Decades of research and experience prove that women are more likely to invest their income in food, clean water, education, and health care for their children, creating a positive cycle of change that lifts entire families, communities and nations out of poverty. Simply put, when women succeed, we all do.

If we ignore these realities, the results will undoubtedly be negative. The statistics are staggering. A World Bank report confirms that societies that discriminate on the basis of gender pay the cost of greater poverty, slower economic growth, weaker governance, and a lower living standard of their people.

In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, less than 2 out of 10 women have a job with a regular income and lower economic risk. GNP per capita is far lower in countries where females are significantly less well educated than men. Also in sub-Saharan Africa, inequality between men and women in education and employment suppressed annual per capita growth between 1960 and 1992 by 0.8 percentage points per year. This is significant, as a boost of 0.8 percentage points per year would have doubled economic growth over that time period.

But when women's voices are fully included in societies and economies, the reverse is true. According to UNICEF, when women hold decision-making power, "they see to it that their children eat well, receive adequate medical care and finish school. Women who have access to meaningful, income-producing work are more likely to increase their families' standards of living, leading children out of poverty."

The World Bank states that, at the macroeconomic level, there is evidence that removing gender disparities spurs growth. According to one estimate, growth rates in sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa would have been 30–45 percent higher had these regions closed the gender gaps during the school years as fast as East Asia did between 1960 and 1992.

The economic growth that can result from gender equality is exemplified by Eugenia Akuete. Eugenia grew up in Ghana surrounded by poverty and started making products from shea butter because she was looking for a way to earn money to help supplement her family's income. At first the market was difficult—she was only producing a small amount, she lacked necessary business and technical training and it was hard to get the shea butter soaps and lotions to U.S. customers. She eventually received training that focused on women's entrepreneurship.

Now she is earning a steady income and teaching other women to do the same by producing and selling shea butter. She has 10 employees, most of whom are women, who she pays above the government minimum and going market rate. She also now employs 300 women in northern Ghana

who gather nuts for the factory to convert into shea butter. Stressing that they are all connected to each other, she explained that it is in her best interest that everyone produce the best quality possible—so that all communities benefit.

When asked what she would like to tell Americans, Eugenia said that what women like her need most are tools so that they can help each other and themselves. "Yes, we need help," she said, "[but] we are also responsible to other people so that we'll have a multiplying effect. I don't believe in freebies: part of the package of responsibility is that if you are helped you in turn have the responsibility to help someone else."

As we in Congress and in the administration are moving forward with the vital process to revamp our foreign assistance, we have an opportunity to make women's empowerment a central focus of U.S. foreign policy. With these unprecedented plans as a backdrop, we should remember Eugenia when we are thinking of ways to maximize our foreign aid dollars. Because of the obvious multiplier effect, one of the best ways to do that is to ensure that women are empowered. Women's success always benefits more than one person.

While we should reflect on progress that women have made in pushing for greater rights and equal opportunities, we must be conscious we still have much to do in working towards greater global gender equality. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I am committed to continuing to work with my colleagues to put women at the center of U.S. foreign assistance and to marshal all the resources necessary to achieve this goal.

ALASKAN OLYMPIANS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, from February 12 to February 28, Americans were united in cheering on some of our Nation's most elite athletes as they competed at the 22nd Winter Olympics in Vancouver. I commend all of our athletes for their exemplary performance and thank the coaches, the team leaders and the U.S. Olympic staff. With such a talented group of people working together, it is no surprise that the United States won a record breaking 37 medals. Americans watched with an extraordinary sense of pride as our flag was raised and our anthem played, and our fellow countrymen and women competed and won on an international stage. I am especially proud of the seven Alaskans that contributed their talent to their country and competed at these Winter Olympics.

Holly Brooks, the coach turned athlete, participated in her first ever Winter Olympics this year. Holly quickly became a beloved member of the Alaskan community after moving there from Seattle. Her work as a coach at Alaska Pacific University and subsequent Olympic success has been an in-

spiration to many of Alaska's young skiers. I know that Holly received an outpouring of support during her run up to qualifying for the Olympics from many of her fellow athletes and Alaskans led by her husband who made hundreds of "Go Holly" stickers for her supporters to wear. I wish Holly luck in her further competitions and hope that she will continue to be a great role model for the young people of Alaska.

Callan Chythlook-Sifsof is the first Alaska Native to be selected to the U.S. National Ski and Snowboard Team and the first to make an Olympic Team. Growing up in a small rural village on the coast of the Bering Sea, Callan learned to board on the mountains surrounding her home. In 2006, at age 17, she earned a position on the U.S. snowboard team and a bronze medal in her first World Cup Boardercross in Japan. She also received a bronze medal at the start of the 2009 season in the South America Continental Cup. Callan continues to quickly excel and is currently ranked No. 2 in the U.S. and No. 14 in the world in Ladies' Boardercross. I hope she continues to compete for many years to come and hopefully we will see her in 2014 in Sochi.

Jay Hakkinen is a familiar name in Alaska where he has been a professional biathlete for over 13 years and just finished his fourth Winter Olympics. Jay is one of the most accomplished U.S. biathletes in Olympic history and his 10th-place finish in the 20 Kilometer Individual at the 2006 Torino Games previously served as the benchmark for the U.S. in an individual event. Jay has shown his perseverance and persistence throughout his illustrious career as a biathlete. I know this is not the last we have heard of Jay and wish him luck as he finishes out the World Cup season.

Jeremy Teela surpassed Jay's benchmark this Olympic Games with his 9th place finish in the Men's 10 Kilometer Sprint. The 34-year-old biathlete from Anchorage is a three-time consecutive Olympian. However, his service to his country goes beyond his athletic talent as Jeremy is a sergeant in the U.S. Army National Guard. As one of five soldier athletes competing in the Olympics, Jeremy and his other servicemembers remind us of the sacrifices that many young Americans have made in service to their country. Jeremy previously earned the bronze medal in the Men's 20 Kilometer in last year's World Cup and I hope he has similar success this year.

Kikkan Randal, the 27-year-old cross country skier from Anchorage, competed in her third consecutive Winter Olympic Games where she had her best-ever finish in the Women's 30 Kilometer Classic—finishing 24th. A former resident of Salt Lake City, UT, she moved at an early age to Anchorage with her family. She is also the niece of former Olympic cross country-skiers, Betsy Haines and Chris Haines, and