

aging policy by awarding fellowships to qualified candidates to serve in a Senate office or with a Senate Committee. The goal of this program is to advance the development of public policy in issues affecting senior citizens. Administered by the Heinz Family Foundation in conjunction with the Secretary of the Senate, the program allows fellows to bring their firsthand experience in aging issues to the work of Congress. Heinz fellows who are advocates for aging issues spend a year to help us learn about the effects of Federal policies on our elderly citizens, those who are social workers help us find better ways to protect our Nation's elderly from abuse and neglect, and those who are health care providers help us to build a strong health care system that addresses the unique needs of our seniors.

The Heinz fellowship enables us to train new leaders in senior citizen advocacy and aging policy. The fellows return to their respective careers with a new understanding about how to work effectively with government, so they may better fulfill their goals as senior citizen advocates.

The John Heinz Senate Fellowship Program has been a valuable tool for Congress and our communities since its establishment in 1992. The continuation of this vital program will signal a sustained commitment to our nation's elderly. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this resolution, and urge its swift adoption.

SENATE RESOLUTION 449—CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE TO AMERICA ON ITS 45TH ANNIVERSARY AND RECOGNIZING ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. BYRD, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 449

Whereas Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) has made an extraordinary contribution to alleviating poverty and improving American society since the program began in 1965;

Whereas more than 175,000 individuals of all ages and from different walks of life have answered VISTA's call to devote a year of full-time service living and working in low-income communities to help eradicate poverty;

Whereas VISTA members have helped create many successful and sustainable community initiatives, including Head Start centers, credit unions, and neighborhood watch groups, with VISTA alumni going on to serve in leadership positions in government, private, and nonprofit sectors throughout the United States;

Whereas VISTA, which became part of AmeriCorps in 1993 and is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, annually engages more than 7,000 members in helping more than 1,000 local organizations build sustainable anti-poverty programs;

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members improve the lives of the most vulnerable citi-

zens in our Nation by fighting illiteracy, improving health services, reducing unemployment, increasing housing opportunities, reducing crime and recidivism, and expanding access to technology;

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members develop programs, recruit community volunteers, generate resources, manage projects, and enhance the ability of nonprofit organizations to become and remain sustainable, thereby strengthening the nonprofit sector in low-income communities across the United States; and

Whereas AmeriCorps VISTA members generate more than \$100,000,000 in cash and in-kind resources annually for organizations throughout the Nation, as well as recruit and manage more than 1,000,000 volunteers who provide 10,000,000 hours of community service for local organizations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the more than 175,000 men and women who have served in VISTA for their dedication and commitment to the fight against poverty;

(2) recognizes VISTA members for leveraging human, financial, and material resources to increase the ability of thousands of low-income areas across the country to address challenges and improve their communities; and

(3) encourages the continued commitment of VISTA members to creating and expanding programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

SENATE RESOLUTION 450—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

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

S. RES. 450

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Eleventh Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Levin (Chairman), Mr. Byrd, Mr. Lieberman, Mr. Reed, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Nelson (Florida), Mr. Nelson (Nebraska), Mr. Bayh, Mr. Webb, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Udall (Colorado), Mrs. Hagan, Mr. Begich, Mr. Burris, Mr. Bingaman, Mr. Kaufman.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Conrad (Chairman), Mrs. Murray, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Feingold, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Nelson (Florida), Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Warner, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Begich.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Lieberman (Chairman), Mr. Levin, Mr. Akaka, Mr. Carper, Mr. Pryor, Ms. Landrieu, Mrs. McCaskill, Mr. Tester, Mr. Burris, Mr. Kaufman.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3448. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3412 submitted by Mr. LAUTENBERG and intended to be proposed to the 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 3449. Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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 3450. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3397 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3451. Mr. BAUCUS proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3336 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS to the bill H.R. 4213, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3448. Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3412 submitted by Mr. LAUTENBERG and intended to be proposed to the 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; as follows:

On page 2, line 9, strike "section 403(a)" and insert "sections 403(a) and 423(b)".

SA 3449. Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill, add the following:

"With respect to the credit for nonbusiness energy property, windows, doors, and skylights that meet the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star standards but that do not meet the standards in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act shall be eligible for a \$1,000 tax credit.

"With respect to the credit for nonbusiness energy property, windows, doors, and skylights that meet the standards in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act shall be eligible for a \$1,500 tax credit."

SA 3450. Ms. KLOBUCHAR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3397 proposed by Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the 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; as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SEC. 6. MODIFICATION OF STANDARDS FOR WINDOWS, DOORS, AND SKYLIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THE CREDIT FOR NONBUSINESS ENERGY PROPERTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (4) of section 25C(c) is amended by striking "unless" and all that follows and inserting "unless—

"(A) such component is equal to or below a U factor of 0.30 and SHGC of 0.30, or

"(B) for a credit allowable under subsection (a) applied by substituting '\$1,000' for '\$1,500' in subsection (b), in the case of—

"(i) any component placed in service after the date which is 90 days after the date of the enactment of the American Workers,

State, and Business Relief Act of 2010, such component meets the criteria for such components established by the 2010 Energy Star Program Requirements for Residential Windows, Doors, and Skylights, Version 5.0 (or any subsequent version of such requirements which is in effect after January 4, 2010),

“(ii) in the case of any component placed in service after the date of the enactment of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010 and on or before the date which is 90 days after such date, such component meets the criteria described in subparagraph (A) or is equal to or below a U factor of 0.30 and SHGC of 0.30, and

“(iii) in the case of any component which is a garage door, such component is equal to or below a U factor of 0.30 and SHGC of 0.30.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by this section shall apply to property placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. PARTICIPANTS IN GOVERNMENT SECTION 457 PLANS ALLOWED TO TREAT ELECTIVE DEFERRALS AS ROTH CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 402A(e)(1) (defining applicable retirement plan) is amended by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (A), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting “, and”, and by adding at the end the following:

“(C) an eligible deferred compensation plan (as defined in section 457(b)) of an eligible employer described in section 457(e)(1)(A).”.

(b) **ELECTIVE DEFERRALS.**—Section 402A(e)(2) (defining elective deferral) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) **ELECTIVE DEFERRAL.**—The term ‘elective deferral’ means—

“(A) any elective deferral described in subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 402(g)(3), and

“(B) any elective deferral of compensation by an individual under an eligible deferred compensation plan (as defined in section 457(b)) of an eligible employer described in section 457(e)(1)(A).”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2010.

SA 3451. Mr. BAUCUS proposed an amendment 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; as follows:

Strike section 201 and insert the following:

SEC. 201. EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROVISIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—(1) Section 4007 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(A) by striking “April 5, 2010” each place it appears and inserting “December 31, 2010”;

(B) in the heading for subsection (b)(2), by striking “APRIL 5, 2010” and inserting “DECEMBER 31, 2010”; and

(C) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “September 4, 2010” and inserting “May 31, 2011”.

(2) Section 2002(e) of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; 123 Stat. 438), is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “April 5, 2010” and inserting “December 31, 2010”;

(B) in the heading for paragraph (2), by striking “APRIL 5, 2010” and inserting “DECEMBER 31, 2010”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by striking “October 5, 2010” and inserting “June 30, 2011”.

(3) Section 2005 of the Assistance for Unemployed Workers and Struggling Families Act, as contained in Public Law 111-5 (26 U.S.C. 3304 note; 123 Stat. 444), is amended—

(A) by striking “April 5, 2010” each place it appears and inserting “January 1, 2011”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “September 4, 2010” and inserting “June 1, 2011”.

(4) Section 5 of the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-449; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended by striking “September 4, 2010” and inserting “May 31, 2011”.

(b) **FUNDING.**—Section 4004(e)(1) of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 26 U.S.C. 3304 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) the amendments made by section 201(a)(1) of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010; and”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Temporary Extension Act of 2010.

Strike section 211 and insert the following:

SEC. 211. EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PREMIUM ASSISTANCE FOR COBRA BENEFITS.

(a) **EXTENSION OF ELIGIBILITY PERIOD.**—Subsection (a)(3)(A) of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5), as amended by section 3 of the Temporary Extension Act of 2010, is amended by striking “March 31, 2010” and inserting “December 31, 2010”.

(b) **RULES RELATING TO 2010 EXTENSION.**—Subsection (a) of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5), as amended by subsection (b)(1)(C), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(18) **RULES RELATED TO 2010 EXTENSION.**—

“(A) **ELECTION TO PAY PREMIUMS RETROACTIVELY AND MAINTAIN COBRA COVERAGE.**—In the case of any premium for a period of coverage during an assistance eligible individual’s 2010 transition period, such individual shall be treated for purposes of any COBRA continuation provision as having timely paid the amount of such premium if—

“(i) such individual’s qualifying event was on or after April 1, 2010 and prior to the date of enactment of this paragraph, and

“(ii) such individual pays, by the latest of 60 days after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, 30 days after the date of provision of the notification required under paragraph (16)(D)(ii) (as applied by subparagraph (D) of this paragraph), or the period described in section 4980B(f)(2)(B)(iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the amount of such premium, after the application of paragraph (1)(A).

“(B) **REFUNDS AND CREDITS FOR RETROACTIVE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY.**—In the case of an assistance eligible individual who pays, with respect to any period of COBRA continuation coverage during such individual’s 2010 transition period, the premium amount for such coverage without regard to paragraph (1)(A), rules similar to the rules of paragraph (12)(E) shall apply.

“(C) **2010 TRANSITION PERIOD.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘transition period’ means, with respect to any assistance eligible individual, any period of coverage if—

“(I) such assistance eligible individual experienced an involuntary termination that was a qualifying event prior to the date of enactment of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010, and

“(II) paragraph (1)(A) applies to such period by reason of the amendments made by section 211 of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010.

“(ii) **CONSTRUCTION.**—Any period during the period described in subclauses (I) and (II) of

clause (i) for which the applicable premium has been paid pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be treated as a period of coverage referred to in such paragraph, irrespective of any failure to timely pay the applicable premium (other than pursuant to subparagraph (A)) for such period.

“(D) **NOTIFICATION.**—Notification provisions similar to the provisions of paragraph (16)(E) shall apply for purposes of this paragraph.”.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the provisions of section 3001 of division B of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

In section 212, strike “December 31, 2009” and insert “March 31, 2010”.

In section 231, strike “this title” and insert “this Act”.

In section 241(1), strike “March 1, 2010” and insert “March 31, 2010”.

In section 601(1), strike “February 28, 2010” and insert “March 31, 2010”.

In section 601(2), strike “March 1, 2010” and insert “April 1, 2010”.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2010, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the nomination of Jeffrey Lane, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs).

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Amanda_Kelly@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Sam Fowler or Amanda Kelly.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2010, at 9 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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