

sale of 66 aircraft to Taiwan would be worth approximately \$4.9 billion and guarantee U.S. jobs for years to come. The ripple effects of this sale through our economy would be significant, especially for workers in states where the recession has hit hard. This sale will also be a shot in the arm to America's defense industrial base, where constructing and equipping the F-16 means high-paying jobs for Americans.

The Obama administration has indicated that it intends to further review Taiwan's request for F-16s. Yet, the time for a decision regarding this sale draws near, and this review cannot be allowed to continue indefinitely. Taiwan needs these F-16 C/D aircraft now. What's more, the F-16 production line is approaching its end, after having manufactured these world-class aircraft for decades and having equipped 25 nations with more than 4,000 aircraft. If hard orders are not received for Taiwan's F-16s this year, the U.S. production line will likely be forced to start shutting down. Once the line begins closing, personnel will be shifted to other programs, inventory orders will be cancelled, and machine tools will be decommissioned. When the F-16 line eventually goes "cold," it is not realistic to expect that it would be restarted. At the same time, through economic and diplomatic threats, China has effectively cut off all other countries from selling arms to Taiwan.

In the months leading up to the administration's recent arms sales announcement, the administration took great pains to telegraph to Beijing their intention that the sale would provide only defensive arms to Taiwan. Nevertheless, China has responded to the sale by threatening U.S. companies, cancelling high-level meetings with U.S. officials, and launching verbal assaults against our country. Beijing's blustering is clearly intended to intimidate the United States and dissuade us from selling new F-16s to Taiwan. This is unacceptable. The United States must not allow Beijing to dictate the terms of any future U.S. arms sales or other support for Taiwan.

President Ma and Taiwan parliamentarians have been clear and direct in their request for these aircraft. It is my hope that they will redouble their efforts here in Congress, as well as with the administration, to make the case and demonstrate the urgent need for the sale of these F-16C/Ds. This is a telling moment for the Obama admin-

istration. Our allies are watching carefully, and so are our potential adversaries. Without question, the path of least resistance for the administration would be to not move forward with the sale of F-16s, under the guise of continued analysis of the proposal. Then, once the F-16 production line had shut down, the proposed sale would be a moot issue for the administration. However, that path would ultimately leave Taiwan—and U.S. interests in the region—dangerously exposed. The sale of these F-16s to Taiwan would send a powerful message that the U.S. will stand by our allies, both in the Taiwan Strait and in other parts of the world.

I urge the President to move forward expeditiously with the sale of F-16s to Taiwan. I hope he will do so, and I know that many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle share this sentiment.

RECONCILIATION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I seek recognition today to address the subject of reconciliation.

I have previously spoken about gridlock in Congress and the negative impact it is having on our stature internationally. We are unable to confirm judicial and executive nominations which is paralyzing the work of the Senate and putting the government's ability to confront the Nation's challenges at risk. It slows the judicial process and leaves many posts empty, including those in defense and national security.

The most central issue at the moment, however, is health care reform. Health care reform passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate. In the Senate, it passed by a supermajority vote of 60-39. The only issue before us now is aligning the already-passed Senate version with the already-passed House version. Despite its passage by 60-39, Republicans are still trying to stop this bill by threatening to filibuster the amendments needed to bring it into a condition that will pass the House of Representatives.

These tactics, which amount to a minority of Senators halting a bill that has overwhelming support, can be overcome by the often used reconciliation process. The reconciliation process is an optional procedure that operates as an adjunct to the budget resolution process established by the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. The rec-

onciliation process has been used by nearly every Congress since its enactment to pass a vast array of legislation.

In their endless efforts to circumvent the will of the majority and thwart the passage of much needed and much supported health care legislation, the Republicans have launched a campaign against the reconciliation process, making it out to be an illegitimate tactic that the Democrats have invented to pass health care legislation. That is simply untrue.

A look back in time, however, shows that the very same Republicans who are now denouncing the use of reconciliation were the very same Republicans who were defending its use not too long ago.

When he was chair of the Budget Committee, Senator JUDD GREGG, in defending the use of reconciliation to try to pass an amendment allowing oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 2005 said, "Reconciliation is a rule of the Senate set up under the Budget Act. It has been used before for purposes exactly like this on numerous occasions. The fact is all this rule of the Senate does is allow a majority of the Senate to take a position and pass a piece of legislation, support that position. Is there something wrong with 'majority rules'? I don't think so."

When using reconciliation to pass Medicare spending, Senator GREGG said, "You can't get 60 votes because the party on the other side of the aisle simply refuses to do anything constructive in this area." Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, when defending the use of reconciliation to pass the Bush tax cuts, said that reconciliation was "the way it will have to be done in order to get it done at all."

Last year Republican Congressman PAUL RYAN said of Democrats using reconciliation, "It's their right. They did win the election. We don't like it because we don't like what looks like the outcome."

Republicans are implying that reconciliation is a new idea, and has never been used to pass significant legislation. The fact is, since 1980, Congress has sent 22 reconciliation bills to the President. Of those, 16 enacted into law occurred under Republican majority control.

The 16 reconciliation bills created with a Republican majority included:

FY	Majority	Resultant reconciliation act(s)	Veto?
1981	Republican	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-499)	None.
1982	Republican	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (P.L. 97-35)	None.
1983	Republican	Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-248)	None.
	Republican	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1982 (P.L. 97-253)	None.
1984	Republican	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1983 (P.L. 98-270)	None.
1986	Republican	Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (P.L. 99-272)	None.
1996	Republican	Balanced Budget Act of 1995	Vetoed by Clinton.
1997	Republican	Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-193)	None.
1998	Republican	Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-33)	None.
	Republican	Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-34)	None.
2000	Republican	Taxpayer Refund and Relief Act of 1999 (H.R. 2488)	Vetoed by Clinton.
2001	Republican	Marriage Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2000 (H.R. 4810)	Vetoed by Clinton.
2002	Republican	Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-16)	None.
2004	Republican	Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-27)	None.
2006	Republican	Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-171)	None.
	Republican	Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-222)	None.

The six reconciliation bills created with a Democratic majority included:

Fiscal year	Majority	Resultant reconciliation act(s)	Veto?
1987	Democrat	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-509)	None.
1988	Democrat	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1987 (P.L. 100-203)	None.
1990	Democrat	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989 (P.L. 101-239)	None.
1991	Democrat	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-508)	None.
1994	Democrat	Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-66)	None.
2008	Democrat	College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 (P.L. 110-84)	Vetoed by Clinton.

This could not be further from the truth. The new Reagan administration and Republican majority in 1981 that first used reconciliation to pass major legislation—Reagan's tax cuts—and used it again in 1982 to cut spending and roll back some tax cuts. A Republican-controlled Senate also used reconciliation to pass the 1996 welfare overhaul, the Children's Health Insurance Program, Medicare Advantage and COBRA.

Republicans have used reconciliation many times to pass partisan bills. For example, the 1995 Balanced Budget Act, the 2001 Bush tax cuts, the 2003 Bush tax cuts, the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act, and the 2006 Tax Relief Extension Act were all passed in reconciliation and with small vote margins. Two of these passed only with the tie-breaking intervention of Vice President Dick Cheney, and Democrats got more votes for the health bill than any of these measures received.

Republicans have also complained that reconciliation is not proper for a health care bill. However, over the past 20 years, reconciliation has been used to pass almost all major pieces of health care legislation, including COBRA; the Children's Health Insurance Program; the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, which requires hospitals that take Medicaid and Medicare to treat anyone entering an ER; and welfare reform, which disentangled Medicaid from welfare.

Further, the health care bill has already passed with 60 votes. It is only the amendments that need to pass via reconciliation. The 2009 budget resolution instructed both Houses of Congress to enact health care reform. Again, comprehensive health legislation has already passed both Chambers, garnering a majority in the House and a supermajority in the Senate. Since the House and the Senate versions are slightly different, using reconciliation to implement the budget resolution by reconciling the two bills follows established procedure. Reconciliation will be used only to pass a small package of fixes to the original health bills that are necessary to align the House and Senate versions. This is actually less ambitious than the usual reconciliation process, which usually applies to entire bills, not just small fixes.

#### RADIO SPECTRUM INVENTORY ACT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I express my support for S. 649, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act. I am joining as a cosponsor of this legislation be-

cause it is important to complete a comprehensive assessment of how we use our radio spectrum before we make decisions about how we want to use it in the future.

As the FCC submits the Nation's first broadband plan to Congress, we have heard much about the need for allocating additional spectrum for the expansion of mobile broadband service. There is little question that rapidly expanding these networks is of critical importance—especially in rural States like North Dakota, which rely on 21st-century technology like mobile broadband to stay competitive.

However, without a thorough understanding of how our public airwaves are currently being used, making a plan to reallocate spectrum would be putting the cart before the horse. For that reason, I strongly believe that the Congress should pass this legislation and policymakers should wait to review the results of the inventory it requires before decisions are made about how or where spectrum should be distributed for the expansion of mobile broadband services. This will allow us to shape spectrum policy in a more thoughtful manner.

Just as the National Broadband Plan gives us for the first time a comprehensive plan for broadband deployment and use, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act will provide for the first time a comprehensive map of how the public airwaves are used—for radio broadcasts, over-the-air television, mobile phones, public safety, and mobile broadband. There are too many users involved to move forward in a piecemeal way. Ultimately, spectrum reallocation is too important to rush.

#### TRIBUTE TO GREG KENDALL

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself and my wife Kathy to pay tribute to Officer Greg Kendall of Rye, NH, who retired on January 1, 2010, after 50 years of service as an educator and law enforcement officer. It is important for us to take a moment to recognize and honor Officer Kendall's long career as a dedicated public servant. Citizens like Greg Kendall ensure that our communities remain great places to live, work, and raise a family. The outstanding community service demonstrated by him is what inspires people to leave behind a better society than they found, and contribute to the betterment of their local community.

Greg, whom Rye Police Chief Kevin Walsh describes as "irreplaceable," is both well known and highly respected

throughout New Hampshire's Seacoast community, where he has served on the Rye police force and as an educator in the Rye and Seabrook school districts. Starting out on summer beach patrol in 1960 as a full-time officer, Greg continued to serve as a police officer on weekends while also beginning his career in education as a full-time sixth grade teacher at Rye Junior High School. Upon finishing graduate studies at the University of New Hampshire and the University of Maine, he became the principal at Rye Junior High School, where he continued to guide and shape the education and character of a generation of young students over the next 16 years. Following that, Greg taught in Seabrook for an additional 13 years, all while serving nights and weekends as a special officer in Rye. Since 2001, Greg has also been animal control officer, performing his duties with the same compassion, calm demeanor, and professionalism that he always brought to his shifts on patrol or lessons in the classroom.

On a personal note, I had the pleasure of serving with Greg when, in the summer of 1968, I worked as a special officer on the Rye Police Force. The town of Rye, the people of the region and the State of New Hampshire are all better off for Greg's wisdom, skills, and experience. He is a friend and someone whose sense of humor, expertise and dedication I have always admired. Kathy and I join Greg's friends and neighbors in Rye in honoring him as an officer of the law, an educator of youth, and a motivator for us all. Thank you, Greg Kendall. We wish you the best in all your future endeavors; may they be as rewarding as those of the last 50 years.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:54 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2377. An act to direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an awards program recognizing excellence exhibited by public school system employees providing services to students in pre-kindergarten through higher education.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2377. An act to direct the Secretary of Education to establish and administer an