

congressional district in Colorado before he came to the Senate—he was down the hall from me, and he remembers, as I do the time when we opposed the war in Iraq, and the Republicans who supported it, all but, I believe, three in the House and one in the Senate didn't think then about paying for that war. They didn't think about what that meant in terms of cost to their children and grandchildren when they passed that.

We were both in the House, Senator UDALL of Colorado and myself, and they didn't think about the cost when we passed the Medicare giveaway to the drug and insurance companies, which Senator UDALL and I—then congressmen—opposed. They didn't say anything about paying for it in those days. They just added it to the credit card for our children and grandchildren.

When they gave tax cuts to the richest Americans—hundreds of billions of dollars over 10 years to the wealthiest Americans—that was just added to the credit card of the future.

It is only now they object to the cost, when it is unemployed workers—people whose lifestyle, people whose quality of life isn't close to the quality of life and the lifestyle and the standard of living that we enjoy, dressed like this, working in a place like this, this august body, with the privileges that surround us. It is only when we talk about people who have lost their jobs, who don't have privileges that we do now—and generally through no doing of their own, but simply because they lost their jobs because their company closed or they got laid off—that they object to the cost.

Most of these workers were efficient workers who did what their employer asked. Yet we are going to be so stingy as to deny them unemployment compensation.

It is not like they are sitting around with nothing to do and should be out working. I talked to dozens of people, as I am sure Senator UDALL, the Presiding Officer, has, talked to dozens of people who tell me they send out 10 or 15, sometimes 25, sometimes 50 resumes every week or so to try to get a job. Usually these resumes go unanswered and possibly barely even looked at because these companies are not even hiring.

It is a question of fairness. It is a question of good economics. It is a question, in some sense, of the privilege we enjoy here that they are denying even a shred of that same advantage, by refusing to extend their unemployment benefits and refusing to extend the assistance they could get for health care with the so-called COBRA program which allows them to keep the health insurance they had. It is at high cost—but not so prohibitively high a cost since we have been helping with that since the stimulus package and legislation I had written before the stimulus bill that included it in it that gave assistance to people who lost

their insurance when they signed up for COBRA to keep what they had.

I do not know what to think about their opposition. I hear them say it is about the budget deficit but I really wonder if it is because they didn't say it before when it was the tax cuts for the rich, the drug and insurance company giveaway, billions of taxpayer dollars, and the Iraq war. They never thought about paying for those things but they want to do it on the backs of unemployed workers. I do not get that.

Let me make it more personal. I have two letters today. I talked to a lady from Painesville, OH, east of Cleveland, in Lake County right along Lake Erie. She wrote and then I actually called her today and talked to her. Her name is Barbara. She said:

My son-in-law just got his last unemployment check. He has 2 kids, a \$1,000 house payment, car insurance, gas is \$3 a gallon, food bills, school clothes, school supplies, car maintenance.

She writes:

Oh yes, the kids like to eat. . . . They turn off the utilities when you do not pay them. . . . [P]lease vote to extend unemployment until jobs are available that pay more than minimum wage.

She goes on to write:

[We] need good paying jobs or unemployment right now. [My] daughter has bills she wants to pay.

She said:

[My] husband wants to work for money.

She said:

My kids don't want welfare.

Again, I think perhaps the Republicans who voted en masse—with the exception again of four courageous Republicans, including my seatmate, Senator VOINOVICH, the senior Senator from my State, including the two Maine Senators and the Massachusetts Senator—perhaps they do not understand the difference between welfare and unemployment insurance. I wish they would pay more attention so that they did. This is again unemployment insurance. These people are not taking welfare. These are people who earned it.

The second and last letter I will read—Janet from Toledo in northwest Ohio writes:

I have been working since I was 14. I am going on 65.

So Janet has worked 50 years or so.

I had to take early retirements and I am [at] risk of losing my home. . . . Thank the Lord I kept my car, but I can't afford much else like health insurance.

People like me are struggling. Giving unemployment . . . is giving money to people who have already earned it and paid into the system.

She is not asking for herself but she is asking for the many people she sees in Oregon, OH, and Wauseon and Bryan and Toledo and Sylvania and all over northwest Ohio, people who again, as most Americans, play by the rules, work hard and simply ask for a fair shake. They want this unemployment insurance available, payments available to them. It is not a lot of money.

It is not anything most of us would want to live on, on any kind of decent standard of living. It is enough to get them to pay their bills through the week, through the month, so their house will not be foreclosed on, so they can feed their children or whatever the basic needs of life are that are so important to them.

I again thank the four Republicans who joined the Democrats in extending this legislation. I hope we can move forward this week, pass this legislation and get it to the President so we can get on with the job of figuring out how to put more people to work in this country.

I spoke today, I did a conference call with several Ohio highway contractors to talk about what this meant to them, what we can do to get money so they can build more highways and bridges and water and sewer systems so they can help companies that want to expand do what they need to do to modernize and expand their plants so they can begin hiring people. That is our mission, extend unemployment benefits and figure out, working with the private sector, how we help them create jobs and get this economy back on track.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order with respect to H.R. 4851 and the Baucus amendment No. 3721 be modified to provide the vote on the motion to waive the Budget Act occur at 12:30 p.m., the additional time be divided as previously ordered, and the remaining provisions of the previous order still in effect.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I ask unanimous consent 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.

HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2010

SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS CARE

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the recently enacted health reform law will extend quality, affordable health coverage to 32 million Americans and cover 95 percent of legal residents within the next decade.

Many Americans, including Christian Scientists, rely on provisions in current law that recognize spiritual care

as a medical expense eligible for a medical care tax deduction. Nothing in the recently enacted health reform law prevents insurance companies from covering care that is currently recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as eligible for a medical care tax deduction through health insurance plans in the exchanges. Further, the new health reform law does not reduce existing provisions in the law that recognize spiritual care.

As we work to implement comprehensive health reform, I believe it is important to ensure that the needs of Americans relying on religious and spiritual care are addressed. I know these views are shared by my colleagues, Chairman HARKIN and Senator SHERROD BROWN, and I look forward to continue working with them on this issue.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I would like to associate myself with the remarks of Senator KERRY. We share an interest in providing appropriate accommodation for spiritual and religious care in a reformed health insurance market.

No American should be left worse off as a result of health reform. Some spiritual care—including that which is provided by Christian Science practitioners and Christian Science nurses—has been covered by certain health insurance policies for decades.

For example, four plans under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program cover religious nonmedical nursing care and/or Christian Science practitioner services. They are the Government Employees' Health Association, the Mail Handlers Benefit Plan, the Special Agents Mutual Benefit Association, and the Association Benefit Plan.

Religious nonmedical nursing services are also covered under the Medicare and Medicaid Programs—42 U.S.C. §1395x(ss) and §1395i-5. TRICARE covers care in Christian Science nursing facilities, private duty Christian Science nursing services, and Christian Science practitioner services (10 U.S.C. §1079(a)(4)). And under section 223 of the Internal Revenue Code, funds contained in a health savings account may be used to pay for spiritual care (26 U.S.C. § 223(d)(2)(A)).

I have an interest in identifying a statutory way to affirm that health insurance companies may still cover this mode of care as part of their policies.

Chairman HARKIN has shown great leadership throughout health reform.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Senator from Ohio. Nothing in health reform legislation would cut existing benefits or restrict the ability of private insurance carriers from covering spiritual care. Further, spiritual care will continue to be recognized as a medical expense eligible for a medical care tax deduction.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I thank the Senator for his assistance and look forward to working with him and Senator KERRY to ensure that appropriate protections for spiritual care are provided as health reform is implemented.

Mr. KERRY. I thank the Senator.

REMEMBERING CAPTAIN JOHN LONERGAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I bring to the attention of the Senate the bravery and sacrifice of a great American, CPT John Lonergan, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry at the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War. His memory will be commemorated on May 8, 2010, with the dedication of a monument in his hometown of Carrick on Suir, County Tipperary, Ireland.

Amid severe famine and the 1848 rebellion against British rule, the Lonergan family was forced to flee Ireland and made their way to Vermont. In 1862, as the American Civil War erupted, John Lonergan mobilized Company A of the 13th Vermont Volunteer Infantry Regiment, the so-called "Irish Company." His unit served 9 months of active duty in Virginia as part of the 2nd Vermont Brigade guarding the outer defenses of Washington, DC. As General Lee and General Grant maneuvered the armies of the South and North during the summer of 1863, Lonergan's Company A was sent on a forced march to Pennsylvania for what would be the Battle of Gettysburg.

On July 2, 1863, at Gettysburg, Lonergan, now a captain, and his company successfully recaptured a Union cannon lost to the rebels and took prisoner more than 80 Confederate soldiers. Captain Lonergan was later awarded the Medal of Honor for his leadership and gallantry during this battle. The next day, he led his company of Vermont soldiers in an attack against the right flank of a massive Confederate assault on Cemetery Ridge. Company A made an invaluable contribution to drive back the Confederate charge at a crucial moment in the Battle of Gettysburg.

After the War, Captain Lonergan worked to overcome existing prejudice against Americans of Irish descent by organizing the first public celebrations of St. Patrick's Day in Vermont. He never lost his love for Ireland, and he was apparently a passionate advocate for liberation from British rule. Captain Lonergan continued serving his new country as a U.S. Customs officer, assigned to duty in Montreal, Canada. He died in 1902 and was buried in Burlington, VT.

We Vermonters are proud to recognize the bravery of Captain Lonergan, those of Irish descent who fought alongside him, and the thousands of other Vermonters who fought in the Civil War. Vermont, per capita, had more of its sons die fighting in the Civil War than any other State.

For their service, bravery and sacrifice, we thank all of them, and all those who continue this proud tradition as they serve the Nation today in Afghanistan, Iraq and other outposts across the globe.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JOAN MARJORIE KOCH STIVERS

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, it is with great admiration and respect that I take this time to memorialize one of Kentucky's most outstanding citizens, Mrs. Joan Marjorie Koch Stivers.

Mrs. Stivers was born on June 19, 1921, in Greenfield, MA. After graduating from high school she attended Simmons College where she received a bachelor of science in dietetics. She then attended Harvard University where she received a master's degree in public health. After graduating from Harvard, Mrs. Stivers relocated to Manchester, KY, as a single young woman, upon taking a position with the Kentucky Public Health Department.

In 1948 she married Bertram Robert Stivers of Manchester, KY. Mr. Stivers would go on to serve Kentucky as a judge of the circuit court. Their marriage lasted 57 years and produced four children and numerous grandchildren. All of their four children are accomplished and include daughters Louise and Mary Beth, who have had outstanding careers in higher education, and one son Robert, who is a State senator and another, Franklin, who is an appellate judge.

However, Mrs. Stivers is perhaps best known for her service to Sue Bennett College, which she joined in 1957 as a faculty member. Her career at Sue Bennett spanned 34 years in which time Mrs. Stivers held numerous positions both inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to her teaching duties, Mrs. Stivers served the college as dean of women, dean of students, academic dean, and finally president of the college.

After her retirement, Mrs. Stivers remained active in the community. She volunteered at the Federal Correctional Institute in Manchester, was active in the Presbyterian Church, and served on the Cumberland Valley Area Development District Commission on Aging and on the Governor's Commission on Aging.

The life of Mrs. Stivers made a tremendous impact on both her local community and the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky. I am honored to bring her accomplishments to the attention of the Senate, and I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to her friends and family.●

TRIBUTE TO FRANKIE MANNING

• Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment today to recognize Mrs. Frankie Manning of the VA Puget Sound Health Care System in Seattle, WA. After over 40 years of service in the U.S. Army and the Department of Veterans Affairs, Mrs. Manning is retiring from government service. A pioneer in championing the needs of women veterans, she helped