

growing national debt by saying that the bill does not actually appropriate any money for these programs.

In a technical sense, they are correct. I suspect that these same proponents will issue statements celebrating its passage, which will disappoint any caregiver of a disabled veteran expecting the promised assistance soon.

No caregiver will be helped unless the appropriations committee allocates the funding for this new program authorized in this bill.

Until then, this bill is an empty promise to veterans and benefits no one except perhaps the career politicians who will claim credit for doing something to help veterans without really having to make any difficult choices.

We owe an enormous sacrifice to our veterans who fought and died in our defense. This debt, which was incurred on a battlefield far from home, should be borne by this generation so that we ensure that the future they fought to secure for our children and grandchildren is not threatened by our own fiscal irresponsibility and shortsightedness.

Congress has once again failed taxpayers, veterans, and their families today.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent the Senate concur in the House amendment; that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3253, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3253) to provide for additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The bill (S. 3253) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3253

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADDITIONAL TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS UNDER THE SMALL BUSINESS ACT AND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT OF 1958.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled “An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration”, approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 111-136 (124 Stat. 6), is amended by striking “April 30, 2010” each place it appears and inserting “July 31, 2010”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on April 29, 2010.

NATIONAL ADOPT A LIBRARY DAY

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 496, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. Res. 496) designating April 23, 2010, as “National Adopt A Library Day.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 496) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 496

Whereas libraries are an essential part of the communities and the national system of education in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States benefit significantly from libraries that serve as an open place for people of all ages and backgrounds to make use of books and other resources that offer pathways to learning, self-discovery, and the pursuit of knowledge;

Whereas the libraries of the United States depend on the generous donations and support of individuals and groups to ensure that people who are unable to purchase books still have access to a wide variety of resources;

Whereas certain nonprofit organizations facilitate the donation of books to schools and libraries across the United States—

(1) to extend the joys of reading to millions of people of the United States; and

(2) to prevent used books from being thrown away;

Whereas, as of the date of agreement to this resolution, the libraries of the United States have provided valuable resources to individuals affected by the economic crisis by encouraging continued education and job training; and

Whereas several States that recognize the importance of libraries and reading have adopted resolutions commemorating April 23 as “Adopt A Library Day”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 23, 2010, as “National Adopt A Library Day”;

(2) honors the organizations that facilitate donations to schools and libraries;

(3) urges all people of the United States who own unused books to donate the unused books to local libraries;

(4) strongly supports children and families who take advantage of the resources provided by schools and libraries; and

(5) encourages the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

NATIONAL SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME AWARENESS WEEK

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 497, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 497) designating the third week of April, 2010 as “National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week.”

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 497) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 497

Whereas the month of April has been designated “National Child Abuse Prevention Month” as an annual tradition initiated in 1979 by President Jimmy Carter;

Whereas the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System reports that 772,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in the United States in 2008, causing unspeakable pain and suffering for our most vulnerable citizens;

Whereas approximately 95,000 of those children were younger than 1 year old;

Whereas more than 4 children die each day in the United States as a result of abuse or neglect;

Whereas children younger than 1 year old accounted for over 40 percent of all child abuse and neglect fatalities in 2008, and children younger than 4 years old accounted for nearly 80 percent of all child abuse and neglect fatalities in 2008;

Whereas abusive head trauma, including the trauma known as Shaken Baby Syndrome, is recognized as the leading cause of death among physically abused children;

Whereas Shaken Baby Syndrome can result in loss of vision, brain damage, paralysis, seizures, or death;

Whereas medical professionals believe that thousands of additional cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome and other forms of abusive head trauma are being misdiagnosed or left undetected;

Whereas Shaken Baby Syndrome often results in permanent and irreparable brain damage or death of the infant and may result in extraordinary costs for medical care

during the first few years of the life of the child;

Whereas the most effective solution for preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome is to prevent the abuse, and it is clear that the minimal costs of education and prevention programs may avert enormous medical and disability costs and immeasurable amounts of grief for many families;

Whereas prevention programs have demonstrated that educating new parents about the danger of shaking young children and how to protect their children from injury can significantly reduce the number of cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome;

Whereas education programs raise awareness and provide critically important information about Shaken Baby Syndrome to parents, caregivers, childcare providers, child protection employees, law enforcement personnel, health care professionals, and legal representatives;

Whereas National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week and efforts to prevent child abuse, including Shaken Baby Syndrome, are supported by groups across the United States, including groups formed by parents and relatives of children who have been injured or killed by shaking, whose mission is to educate the general public and professionals about Shaken Baby Syndrome and to increase support for victims and their families within the health care and criminal justice systems;

Whereas 20 States have enacted legislation related to preventing and increasing awareness of Shaken Baby Syndrome;

Whereas the Senate has designated the third week of April as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week" each year since 2005; and

Whereas the Senate strongly supports efforts to protect children from abuse and neglect: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the third week of April 2010 as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week";

(2) commends hospitals, childcare councils, schools, community groups, and other organizations that are—

(A) working to increase awareness of the danger of shaking young children;

(B) educating parents and caregivers on how they can help protect children from injuries caused by abusive shaking; and

(C) helping families cope effectively with the challenges of child-rearing and other stresses in their lives; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States—

(A) to remember the victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome; and

(B) to participate in educational programs to help prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider en bloc Calendar Nos. 790, 791, 792, and 793; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table en bloc; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named individual for appointment as Commandant of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., Section 44:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Robert J. Papp, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Commandant of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., Section 47:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Sally Brice-O'Hara

The following named officer for appointment as Commander, Pacific Area of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Manson K. Brown

The following named officer for appointment as Commander, Atlantic Area of the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Robert C. Parker

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. DORGAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 111-148, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Key National Indicators: Dr. Ikram Khan of Nevada (for a term of 3 years) and Dr. Dean Ornish of California (for a term of 2 years).

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

Mr. DORGAN. Let me ask, if I might, I know Senator MURRAY and Senator SESSIONS are here. I do not know in what order they would want to go, and I believe about 10 minutes each or so.

I ask unanimous consent that Senator SESSIONS be recognized, followed by Senator MURRAY, and I be recognized following the presentation of Senator MURRAY.

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

The Senator from Alabama.

FINANCIAL REGULATORY REFORM

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, we are talking about financial reform. There is a lot of attention and a lot of the Members of the Senate are trying

to keep up with it and trying to make sure we create a reform package that effectively deals with corporations that have so mismanaged their business that they need to be dissolved or broken up or liquidated, as is normally the case when a company in America cannot pay its bills.

This happens every day for smaller companies. It becomes a bit more complicated, sometimes a great deal more complicated, when the corporations get bigger and bigger and bigger. The way our corporations are normally dissolved, if they are financially insolvent and cannot operate, has always been bankruptcy court.

There are bankruptcy judges all over America. It is a Federal court system. Bankruptcy is referred to in the U.S. Constitution. It has worked very well. I guess what I am concerned about is, some of the provisions that are in the proposed legislation that is floating about would alter that traditional idea in ways that may be unwise.

Senator LEAHY, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I am the ranking Republican on that committee, and I have talked about this a little bit. It is getting to a point where we need to figure out what is happening here. The matter is highlighted by a letter from the Judicial Conference of the United States—Mr. James Duff, the Presiding Secretary, of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Chairman LEAHY asked them their opinions on some of the proposals for dissolution of companies, the orderly liquidation of companies.

The Judicial Conference responded in a letter that was received by Senator LEAHY, and I do believe it raises important questions. I truly do. I am a person who spent a lot of time practicing law, both as U.S. attorney and in private practice in Federal court, and have some appreciation for how bankruptcy courts operate. I would say, we ought to pay attention to what the Judicial Conference says to us. It is a kind of correspondence they take seriously. They do not lightly send off letters to the Senate. This was in response to a question. So this is what Mr. Duff replies on behalf of the Judicial Conference, in reply to Senator LEAHY:

As you noted, Title II would create an "Orderly Liquidation Authority Panel" within the Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware for the limited purpose of ruling on petitions from the Secretary of the Treasury for authorization to appoint the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as the receiver for a failed financial firm.

Then it goes on to say:

This is a substantial change to the bankruptcy law because it would create a new structure within the bankruptcy courts and remove a class of cases from the jurisdiction of the Bankruptcy Code. The legislation, by assigning to the FDIC the responsibility for resolving the affairs of an insolvent firm, appears to provide a substitute for a bankruptcy proceeding.

You see, when people loan money to a corporation, people buy stock in a