

should allow provisions, such as the extension of emergency unemployment benefits, to expire. But I do believe that when we extend these programs, we should do so in a responsible fashion. Congress should find a way to pay for those extensions.

That is where there is disagreement on this issue—not whether Congress should pass an extenders package but whether it should be paid for.

Even though the need for these extensions comes as no surprise, we again find ourselves in a position where the majority has proposed extending these programs without finding the money to fund them.

Just 2 weeks after our Federal debt topped \$13 trillion—let me say that one more time; \$13 trillion is owed by the United States of America today—we are now poised to vote on another proposal that would spend money this country simply does not have.

That number, \$13 trillion, is so big that it is difficult to comprehend. But what it boils down to is \$42,000 of debt for every single citizen of the United States of America.

The public debt has risen by \$2.4 trillion in the 500 days since the current administration took office. That is an average of \$4.9 billion per day. We are now borrowing 43 cents of every dollar we spend. But still we are continuing to spend.

Estimates show that \$4.8 trillion of the \$9 trillion in debt that America will accrue over the next decade will be from interest. That is \$4.8 trillion that could be better used on national defense or returned to taxpayers to pay for other necessities. Instead, future generations will be forced to pay higher taxes to foot the bill for Congress's out-of-control spending.

With much of our national debt being held by other nations, such as China, this is also an issue of national security. Just as with our energy and food supply, we put our Nation in a more vulnerable position when we disproportionately rely on other countries.

It is a matter of great concern that our Nation is in deep debt to foreign countries that often do not share our positions on domestic or international policy matters. While our global economy ensures that there will be foreign investment in our debt, this sustained, exploding debt guarantees that we provide leverage to our creditors. At some point, we have to say enough is enough and make some tough decisions about spending beyond our means. Again, we can pass an extenders package without recklessly adding to the cost of our Federal debt.

Earlier this year, this body voted to give the rule known as pay-go the force of law. And yet virtually every piece of legislation that we have considered between then and now has fallen short of this standard. Talking about fiscal responsibility and restraint while spending recklessly is hypocrisy of which the American people will surely take notice, and they have taken notice.

States as well are being left in the fiscal lurch.

By not shoring up the Federal Medicaid matching rate, my State of Georgia will have a \$370.5 million hole in its budget. We have had to make sacrifices at home. My legislature has had to make very difficult, hard, and tough decisions with respect to trying to find reductions in spending at the State level to come up with a fiscally responsible, and balanced budget that they are required to have under our State constitution.

We know States are facing huge challenges, relying as they do on money promised from the Federal Government. But we all need to keep in mind that we are borrowing virtually every cent of that money. It is time we get serious about this Nation's precarious fiscal situation. We can no longer afford to burden our grandchildren with insurmountable debt.

Recently, we witnessed what happens when a nation does not live within its means. The economic crisis in Greece was caused by years of unbridled spending and failure to implement fiscal reforms. This recklessness left Greece badly exposed when the global economic downturn appeared. This pattern should serve as a wake-up call to every one of us that spending must be controlled.

Retirement programs such as Medicare and Social Security are on the verge of bankruptcy. In March of this year, reports emerged that Social Security is set to pay out more in benefits than it receives in payroll taxes this year—a threshold the program was not expected to cross until at least 2016. By some estimates, the program will no longer be able to pay retirees full benefits by the year 2037.

Instead of trying to place programs such as Social Security on more stable footing, we spent more than a year debating a health care bill that will create even more costly entitlement programs, the true price tag of which is yet to be seen.

The original proposal that was debated and voted on earlier today, advanced by the majority, increased spending by \$126 billion, which included more than \$70 billion in new taxes and increased the deficit by \$79 billion over the next 10 years. Thank goodness the votes were not there to proceed with that underlying bill.

Now, according to the chairman of the Finance Committee, we have a new bill. While it is smaller in dollars, according to the comments made by the chairman of the Finance Committee earlier tonight—he says also that the majority of the amendment is offset, which means it is still not paid for.

We have an opportunity tomorrow to take a step toward responsibility and restraint by paying for this extenders package. I am a cosponsor of the amendment introduced by the Senator from South Dakota, Mr. THUNE, which would extend the same programs as the House-passed version of this legisla-

tion. But unlike that version, the Thune amendment pays for those programs instead of adding their cost to the Federal debt. It also cuts taxes by \$26 billion, cuts spending by more than \$100 billion, and, according to the CBO, reduces the deficit by \$55 billion. It does this through spending cuts and the use of unobligated stimulus funds.

The Thune amendment does away with the harmful tax increases on long-term investment that are part of the underlying bill. These taxes on carried interest would almost certainly serve to discourage capital investment, increase borrowing costs associated with starting or growing businesses, and hurt real estate and stock prices, all at a time when our economy is extremely vulnerable. The real estate and venture capital arena—two segments of our economy that are vital to sustained job growth—would be especially hard hit by these taxes on long-term investments.

Many Americans need the programs in this bill to be extended, but we must be sure we extend them in a responsible way, and that is why I urge my colleagues to strongly consider the Thune amendment as we debate it tomorrow and vote in favor of the Thune amendment.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant editor of the Daily Digest proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4213, the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010, with the Baucus amendment No. 4369.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Patrick J. Leahy, Jeanne Shaheen, Byron L. Dorgan, Sherrod Brown, Edward E. Kaufman, Daniel K. Akaka, Christopher J. Dodd, Jeff Bingaman, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Jack Reed, Barbara A. Mikulski, Roland W. Burris, Jon Tester, Daniel K. Inouye, Tom Harkin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed

to a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the exception of the Senator from Illinois.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

#### CHILD SOLDIERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in December of 2008, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act became law. The act includes a provision that I put in the bill with Senator SAM BROWNBACK, Republican of Kansas, to address the problem of child soldiers, specifically the Child Soldier Prevention Act.

The goal of this language was simple and straightforward: U.S. military assistance should not go to finance the use and exploitation of children in armed conflict. The law not only expresses American values by rejecting any use of child soldiers by foreign governments, but also provides leverage through our Foreign Military Assistance Program to encourage governments to address this heinous practice.

Moreover, under the Child Soldiers Accountability Act and Human Rights Enforcement Act, it is unlawful to knowingly provide material support to the use of child soldiers. Tragically, according to Amnesty International, hundreds of thousands of children around the world are still being used as child soldiers. These boys and girls wield automatic weapons on the front lines of combat. They serve as human mine detectors. They participate in suicide missions. They carry supplies, they act as spies, messengers, lookouts, and sex slaves. They endanger their own health and the lives of others and sacrifice their childhood in the process.

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee's Human Rights and the Laws Subcommittee, one of the first hearings we held was focused on the scourge of child soldiers. We heard moving testimony from a remarkable young man named Ishmael Beah. Mr. Beah is a former child soldier from Sierra Leone and author of the best selling book, "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier."

Some Americans may recall this book because it was featured at Starbucks for a long period of time. You find it at bookstores as well. I will never forget what Mr. Beah told the Human Rights Subcommittee, and I want to quote him. Here is what he said:

When you go home tonight to your children, your cousins, and your grandchildren, and watch them carrying out their various childhood activities, I want you to remember that at that same moment, there are countless children elsewhere who are being killed, injured; exposed to extreme violence and

forced to serve in armed groups, including girls who are raped . . . As you watch your loved ones, those children you adore most, ask yourselves whether you would want these kinds of suffering for them. If you don't, then you must stop this from happening to other children around the world whose lives and humanity are as important and of the same value as all children everywhere.

We have a moral obligation to respond to Mr. Beah's challenge. Children suffer high mortality, disease, and injury rates that are higher in combat situations than adults. The lasting effects of war and abuse remain with them long after the shooting stops. Both girls and boys are stigmatized and traumatized by their experience, and left with neither family connections nor skills to allow them to transition successfully to productive adult life.

Over the last decade, 2 million children have died in armed conflict—10 years, 2 million children died in armed conflict, 6 million injured.

Further troubling is that children have served as soldiers for governments that have in the past received the assistance of the U.S. Government. With the passage of the Child Soldier Prevention Act, my hope was that this practice would come to an end.

Imagine my surprise when I saw on the front page of the New York Times this week that Somalia's transitional federal government, which the U.S. supports financially as part of its larger counterterrorism strategy, is brazenly using child soldiers. Mr. President, I know you have a young son and you probably saw this photograph. But imagine, if you will, two young boys, identified in this photograph in Somalia, 12-year-old Adan Ugas, and 15-year-old Ahmed Hassan, holding automatic military weapons and working for the transitional Federal Government of Somalia.

When I was a little boy, 12, 10, we used to play with guns, but they were all toys. This is the real thing. These are children. As Ishmael Beah said: Try to picture your son or daughter in that situation, their childhood robbed and scarred for life from being drawn into horrific violence.

The fact that they are working for a military financed by the United States is appalling. In fact, according to human rights groups and the United Nations, the Somali Government is fielding hundreds of children on the front lines, some as young as 9 years old. A Somali Government official quoted in the Times article said: We were trying to find anyone who could carry a gun.

I read that article. It talked about these little boys who, the guns were so heavy, they were switching the strap from one shoulder to the next. They were talking about these little boys with these automatic weapons challenging people in vehicles to stop or they would shoot them.

They asked one of these little boys: What do you really love in life? He

said: I love my gun. A Somali Government official acknowledged the fact that this is happening, an official of a government which we are supporting.

I understand Somalia is in a difficult neighborhood in the world, and one of the most dangerous places. It is trying to emerge from years of lawlessness, and the fledgling government does need support. I have met with refugees who have fled the chaos of Somalia in hopes of a better life.

In fact, this last Saturday I met with refugees in Chicago from Somalia. But the law is clear. American tax dollars must not be used to fund the use of child soldiers. Period. I urge the Department of State and the Department of Defense to immediately halt the U.S. support for any such activities and to work with the Somali Government to terminate the use of child soldiers, and reintegrate these children back into a normal, peaceful family life.

I have written our Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, and urged her to recognize that though the Somali transitional government is trying to bring some measure of stability to their war-torn country, it should not do so on the backs of its most precious commodity, its children, and certainly not with the help of American taxpayers.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter to Secretary Clinton on this topic.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JUNE 16, 2010.

Secretary of State HILLARY CLINTON,  
Department of State, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CLINTON: I write with great concern over a June 14 report in the New York Times that U.S. military financing to the Somali Transitional Federal Government is being used to pay for the use of child soldiers. Such assistance would appear to be in violation of the Child Soldier Prevention provision of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 which prohibits U.S. military assistance to governments of a country that use child soldiers. Moreover, under the Durbin-Coburn Child Soldiers Accountability Act and the Durbin-Coburn Human Rights Enforcement Act, it is unlawful to knowingly provide material support to the use of child soldiers.

As you know, the tragic use of child soldiers continues to a problem around the world. Amnesty International estimates that globally more than 250,000 children are fighting in active conflicts. These young boys and girls fight on front lines of combat, serve as human mine detectors, participate in suicide missions, carry supplies, and act as spies, messengers, lookouts, and sex slaves—endangering their health and lives. Quite simply, they are robbed of their childhoods.

Furthermore, the lasting effects of war and abuse remain with them for years—too often for a lifetime. Former child soldiers are stigmatized and traumatized by their experience and left with neither family connections nor skills to allow them to transition successfully into productive adult lives. We should be doing everything we can to not only end military support for governments that engage in this troubling practice, but to also