

rest of America. At a time when Congress may allow taxes to increase on some or even all Americans, Congress should not expect other Americans to pay more taxes when they are not even paying the taxes they owe under the rates they set themselves.

The bills I am introducing are fair to Federal employees and other taxpayers. Both bills carefully reach only those paid by the taxpayers who have willfully neglected to pay their incomes taxes.

The legislation excludes elected officials or Federal employees who made oversights in their personal taxes but willfully agree to pay them, or if they are challenging the delinquency in court or through the IRS. Instead, it targets those who willfully neglect or avoid the pay their taxes.

Specifically, it excludes Federal employees from termination and Members of Congress from repercussions if the individual is currently paying the taxes, interest, and penalties owed to IRS under an installment plan; the individual and the IRS have worked out a compromise on the amount of taxes, interest and penalties owed and the compromise amount agreed upon is being repaid to IRS; the individual has not exhausted his or her right to due process under the law; or the individual filed a joint return and successfully contends he or she should not be fully liable for the taxes, interest, and/or penalties owed because of something the other party to the return did or did not do.

The first bill requires all Federal employees to be current on their Federal income taxes or be fired from their jobs.

The second bill requires Members of Congress to report any outstanding tax liability. If the Member possesses a tax liability, this bill would require the appropriate congressional committee to launch an ethics investigation and the Member's salary would be reduced in accordance with the amount he or she owes.

These bills require no more of members of Congress or Federal employees than is required of other Americans.

It should be a priority of this Congress to pass these solutions as a way to guarantee equal treatment under the law. This is especially important at this time when our national debt exceeds \$13.5 trillion since this legislation is estimated to reduce the Federal deficit by at least \$3 billion.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support these bills to demonstrate their commitment to requiring Congress to live under the same rules it imposes on the rest of the country. It is time for every member of Congress to pay their taxes rather than simply spending the taxes of others.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 622—TO STOP SECRET SPENDING

Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 622

Resolved, SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the "Stop Secret Spending Resolution".

SEC. 2. STOPPING SECRET SPENDING.

(a) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—In the Senate, legislation that has been subject to a hotline notification may not pass by unanimous consent unless the hotline notification has been posted on the public website of the Senate for at least 3 calendar days as provided in subsection (b).

(b) POSTING ON SENATE WEBPAGE.—At the same time as a hotline notification occurs with respect to any legislation, the Majority Leader shall post in a prominent place on the public webpage of the Senate a notice that the legislation has been hotlined and the legislation's number, title, link to full text, and sponsor and the estimated cost to implement and the number of new programs created by the legislation.

(c) LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Senate shall establish for both the Senate Calendar of Business and the Senate Executive Calendar a separate section entitled "Notice of Intent To Pass by Unanimous Consent".

(2) CONTENT.—The section required by paragraph (1) shall—

(A) include any legislation posted as required by subsection (b) and the date the hotline notification occurred; and

(B) be updated as appropriate.

(3) REMOVAL.—Items included on the calendar under this subsection shall be removed from the calendar once passed by the Senate.

(d) EXCEPTIONS.—This section shall not apply—

(1) if a quorum of the Senate is present at the time the unanimous consent is propounded to pass the bill;

(2) to any legislation relating to an imminent or ongoing emergency, as jointly agreed to by the Majority and Minority Leaders; and

(3) to legislation dealing solely with post office namings.

(e) SUSPENSION.—The Presiding Officer shall not entertain any request to suspend this section by unanimous consent.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "hotline notification" means when the Majority Leader in consultation with the Minority Leader, provides notice of intent to pass legislation by unanimous consent by contacting each Senate office with a message on a special alert line (commonly referred to as the hotline) that provides information on what bill or bills the Majority Leader is seeking to pass through unanimous consent; and

(2) the term "legislation" means a bill or joint resolution.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, there has been much debate over the past year regarding "secret holds" stalling the consideration of presidential appointments or slowing expedited passage of legislation by the Senate. Lost in this discussion has been an issue that should be a far greater concern for taxpayers—"secret spending."

This body routinely attempts to pass hundreds of bills costing tens of billions of dollars or more in secret without debate, votes, or amendments. It does so using an unofficial process not found in Senate rule books known as the "hotline."

The U.S. Senate is often referred to as "the world's greatest deliberative body." This is because Senate rules grant each of the Senate's 100 members rights that cannot be overridden by a simple majority, including the right to require debate before a bill is considered or passed.

Yet, the Senate practice known as the "hotline" often prevents and precludes debate. In fact, Senators often do not even read the bills being passed using the hotline.

The term "hotline" or practice of "hotlining" bills does not appear in the Senate's official rules, but this procedure is utilized nearly every day the Senate is in session. A hotline is an informal term for an alert sent to members of the Senate giving notice of a proposed agreement to allow a bill or resolution to be approved by the Senate without debate or amendment. A measure that is "hotlined" is recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a being agreed to by unanimous consent, UC.

Hotlines occur at the discretion of the Majority Leader in consultation with the Minority Leader. The leader's office contacts each Senate office with a message on a special alert line called the "hotline," which provides information on what bill or bills the leader is seeking to pass through unanimous consent. Hotline notices are only given to Senate offices.

If there is an objection to the bill being "hotlined," a senator is asked to call the leader's office and give notice of intent to object to the bill being passed by unanimous consent whenever such a request may occur. The process of notifying the leader's office of an objection to "hotline" is informally referred to as a "hold." In practice, instead of requiring explicit unanimous consent to pass a bill, the "hotline" process only requires a lack of dissent.

In many instances, bills are hotlined for which no text, description, or budget estimates have been made publicly available. In some Senate offices, the "hotline," or request for unanimous consent to pass a measure, may never even reach senators, and the decision to allow a bill to be approved without debate is determined by staff, who do not even read the bill.

When a bill is "hotlined," the public is not informed and neither is the media. Only the offices of senators are alerted. It is therefore a form of "secret spending." Much like a "hold" can be kept from the public, so can the "hotlining" of bills, which can cost billions of dollars.

The vast majority of legislation approved by the Senate is done so via the "hotline" under the guise of unanimous consent. According to the Congressional Research Service, CRS, "in

the last ten Congresses, 110th–101st, an average of 93 percent of approved measures did not receive roll call votes” and “in the 111th Congress through February 1, 2010, 94 percent of approved measures were approved without a roll call vote.”

Every time the Senate passes legislation without full and open debate, the American people are done a disservice. The Senate should not pass a new bill if its text, purpose, and budget estimate are not available to the general public.

Taxpayers and the media should have the right to read and analyze legislation prior to its passage. Senators, likewise, have a responsibility to know the contents of legislation prior to granting consent for its passage. Additionally, hotlining bills take away the accountability for legislation approved by the Senate. Since there is no recorded vote for most hotlined bills, senators have no culpability for most of the legislation approved by the Senate.

The lack of of an objection from unelected staff should not be sufficient to pass legislation that could spend millions or even billions of dollars and significantly alter U.S. laws.

In many cases, if a senator objects to a hotline request—even if the objection is merely to be granted sufficient time to study and review the text, cost, and impact of the legislation—special interest groups will immediately label the senator who is trying to be diligent as an undemocratic obstructionist.

But the truth is neither democracy nor taxpayers are served well by this process. “Hotlining” bills enable the hasty passage of legislation without the public’s knowledge or feedback. This process benefits politicians and special interests rather than taxpayers.

Senators have an obligation to their constituents to do their jobs, which includes reading the bills and understanding the impact of legislation passed by Congress.

Today I am introducing the “Stop Secret Spending Resolution” along with Senator Claire McCaskill of Missouri. This bi-partisan legislation would provide transparency and accountability by prohibiting a bill or joint resolution from passing without a vote until the hotline notifications are available on a public website for at least 72 hours. The public notice much include: a cost analysis completed by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO); the number of new programs created by the legislation; and the actual legislative text.

The new 72 hour rule would not apply to noncontroversial item such as post office namings and sense of the Senate resolutions; nominations; any legislation relating to an imminent or ongoing emergency; or a unanimous consent request made when a quorum of the Senate is present.

Voters are demanding Congress bring greater accountability to the legislative process. Ending secret spending

represents a meaningful first step to guaranteeing increased accountability and transparency by providing sufficient time for the public to review legislation before it is passed by Congress.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of this legislation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 623—COMMENDING THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF INTEREST IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS BY THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mr. KAUFMAN (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 623

Whereas science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this preamble as “STEM”) are vital fields of increasing importance in driving the economic engine of the United States;

Whereas STEM-educated graduates have and will continue to play critical roles in helping to develop clean energy technologies, to find life-saving cures for diseases, to solve security challenges, and to discover new solutions for deteriorating transportation and infrastructure;

Whereas through 2018, STEM occupations are projected to provide 2,800,000 job openings;

Whereas over 90 percent of STEM occupations require at least some postsecondary education;

Whereas students across the country, especially young women and underrepresented minorities, need greater understanding and appreciation of STEM careers, and access to quality STEM opportunities;

Whereas the entertainment industry of the United States, comprised of movies, television, theater, radio, DVDs, video games, as well as other video and audio recordings and means of communications, has an extraordinary ability to reach the people of the United States, especially young people;

Whereas the entertainment industry has begun to make significant investments in support of STEM education; and

Whereas, for example, the Entertainment Industries Council has developed the Ready on the S.E.T. and . . . Action! initiative to elevate the importance of science, engineering, and technology in national entertainment and news productions by connecting STEM experts, companies, and organizations with the entertainment industry in order to disseminate accurate information about STEM professionals and careers, and producing the first-ever S.E.T. Awards Show this year to award accurate and impactful portrayals of STEM in movies, television series, radio and television news programs, and print and online journalism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the effective use of the substantial influence and resources of the entertainment industry of the United States, by those members of the entertainment industry, such as the Entertainment Industries Council, who are working to encourage interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics; and

(2) urges the entertainment industry to continue to use the creative talent, skills, and audience-reach at its disposal to commu-

nicate the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to support the efforts of the entertainment industries to encourage interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM. As the only serving Senator who has worked as an engineer, I am proud to sponsor a resolution acknowledging the essential role STEM professionals play and the important work that they do.

I would also like to thank Senators FEINSTEIN and BOXER for joining me in introducing this resolution.

I truly believe that, whether one considers our dependence on fossil fuels, efforts to promote global health, new challenges in homeland security, or re-investing in America’s infrastructure, the next generation of STEM-educated graduates will be the problem solvers for the most important issues of our time.

In fact, through 2018, STEM occupations are projected to provide 2.8 million job openings. What is more, over 90 percent of STEM occupations require at least some postsecondary education.

Yet, students across the country, particularly women and underrepresented minorities, need a better understanding of, and appreciation for, STEM careers. They also need better access to quality STEM opportunities and activities.

Fortunately, the entertainment industry has recognized this need.

The Entertainment Industries Council—a non-profit organization created in 1983 by leaders in the industry to raise awareness about major health and social issues—recently developed a similar initiative to elevate the importance of STEM in national entertainment and news productions. Ready on the S.E.T. and . . . Action! will connect STEM experts, companies, and organizations with the entertainment industry in order to disseminate accurate information about STEM professionals and careers.

Moreover, for 14 years, the Entertainment Industries Council has produced the PRISM awards to honor productions and performances that accurately portray prevention, treatment, and recovery of substance abuse and mental illness. This year, they will produce the first-ever S.E.T. Awards Show to honor accurate and impactful portrayals of STEM in movies, television series, news programs, and print and online journalism.

Specific programming has started to take off. PBS has a new show called SciGirls to support girls’ interests in STEM. Each half-hour episode follows a different group of middle school girls who put science and engineering to work in their everyday lives. The young girls are aided in their quests by female mentors and a companion Web site is incorporated into the TV series.

Just a few weeks ago, the Science Channel introduced Head Rush. This one-hour, commercial-free programming is targeted at middle school-age