

forced to resort to, in turn, create new opportunities for abuse.

Even without a constitutional amendment, we can try to make some progress. For example, I think we made some decent progress on the McCain-Feingold legislation, even despite the Court's decisions since 2002 narrowing the reach of that law. But we cannot enact truly comprehensive legislation that will get to the heart of the problem under current court rulings. I wish we could. I have long supported a clean elections system of public financing for Congressional campaigns which would integrate spending limits, citizen financing, and other basic reforms. That is the way I think we should go. There are other approaches. But the fact is—and I am sorry for this—that unless the Supreme Court again reverses itself, we cannot get the comprehensive legislation we really need unless we first adopt an amendment to the Constitution.

This amendment is neutral on what kind of regulation of campaigns would be allowed. It simply authorizes such regulation, and leaves it to Congress and state legislatures to determine what might be appropriate. That is where such decisions should be made on these issues: by the people's representatives in Congress and in state legislatures. That is why I think amending the Constitution and enabling Congress to make those decisions is the first step if we are to make real progress on this front.

Others will argue for a narrower constitutional amendment to focus primarily on the issue of corporate expenditures. That is another way to address the issue, though I believe it would still leave many unanswered questions about Congress' ability to regulate broadly in this area. We should have a full and robust debate about all of the options.

Someday we may adopt this idea, if the situation continues to run out of hand. And we may look back to this court decision in 2010 and mark it as an historic watershed, a catalyst for major change. I sincerely hope that will be true, for the sake of this institution and our democratic process, and for the sake of our country. I commend the amendment to my colleagues' attention, and urge them to consider co-sponsoring it.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. J. RES. 28

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years after the date of its submission by the Congress:

“ARTICLE—

“SECTION 1. Congress shall have power to regulate the raising and spending of money with respect to Federal elections, including through setting limits on—

“(1) the amount of contributions to candidates for nomination for election to, or for election to, Federal office; and

“(2) the amount of expenditures that may be made by, in support of, or in opposition to such candidates.

“SECTION 2. A State shall have power to regulate the raising and spending of money with respect to State elections, including through setting limits on—

“(1) the amount of contributions to candidates for nomination for election to, or for election to, State office; and

“(2) the amount of expenditures that may be made by, in support of, or in opposition to such candidates.

“SECTION 3. Congress shall have power to implement and enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 421—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF “NATIONAL GUARD YOUTH CHALLENGE DAY”

Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BYRD, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. BENNETT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 421

Whereas “National Guard Youth Challenge Day” will be celebrated on February 24, 2010;

Whereas high school dropouts need guidance, encouragement, and avenues toward self-sufficiency and success;

Whereas over 1,300,000 students drop out of high school each year, costing this Nation more than \$335,000,000,000 in lost wages, revenues, and productivity over the lifetimes of these individuals;

Whereas the life expectancy for a high school dropout is 9 years less than that of a high school graduate, and a high school dropout can expect to earn about \$19,000 each year, compared to approximately \$28,000 for a high school graduate;

Whereas 54 percent of high school dropouts were jobless during an average month in 2008, with 40 percent having no job for the entire year;

Whereas each annual class of high school dropouts cost this Nation over \$17,000,000,000 in publicly subsidized health care over the course of their lives;

Whereas approximately 90 percent of individuals in prisons throughout the United States are high school dropouts;

Whereas the goal of the National Guard Youth Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is to improve the education, life skills, and employment potential of high school dropouts in the United States through public awareness, scholarships, higher education assistance, and job development programs;

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program provides military-based training, supervised work experience, assistance in obtaining a high school diploma or equivalent degree, and development of leadership qualities, as well as promotion of citizenship, fellowship, service to their community, life skills training, health and physical education, positive relationships with adults and peers, and career planning;

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program represents a successful joint effort between States and the Federal Government;

Whereas since 1993, the National Guard Youth Challenge Program has developed 32 programs in 27 States and Puerto Rico;

Whereas since 1993, over 92,850 young individuals have successfully graduated from the program, with 80 percent earning their high school diploma or GED certificate, 24 percent going to college, 18 percent joining the military, and 57 percent entering the workforce with career jobs;

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program has successfully helped high school dropouts in this Nation; and

Whereas the National Guard Youth Challenge Program can play a larger role in providing assistance to the youth of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of “National Guard Youth Challenge Day”; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe “National Guard Youth Challenge Day” on February 24, 2010, with appropriate ceremonies and respect.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3326. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, to make technical corrections to the laws affecting certain administrative authorities of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes.

SA 3327. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3326 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 1299, supra.

SA 3328. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, supra.

SA 3329. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, supra.

SA 3330. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3329 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 1299, supra.

SA 3331. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3961, to reform the Medicare SGR payment system for physicians and to reinstate and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory spending legislation, enforced by the threat of annual, automatic sequestration.

SA 3332. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3961, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3326. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, to make technical corrections to the laws affecting certain administrative authorities of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, insert the following:

The provisions of this act shall become effective 5 days after enactment

SA 3327. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3326 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 1299, to make technical corrections to the laws affecting certain administrative authorities of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes; as follows:

In the amendment, strike “5” and insert “4”.

SA 3328. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, to

make technical corrections to the laws affecting certain administrative authorities of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, insert the following:

The Senate Rules Committee is requested to study the benefit of enacting a travel promotion measure, and the impact of job creation by its enactment.

SA 3329. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1299, to make technical corrections to the laws affecting certain administrative authorities of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, insert the following:
“and include regional statistics of job creation”

SA 3330. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to amendment SA 3329 proposed by Mr. REID to the bill H.R. 1299, to make technical corrections to the laws affecting certain administrative authorities of the United States Capitol Police, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, insert the following:
“including specific data on the types of jobs created”.

SA 3331. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3961, to reform the Medicare SGR payment system for physicians and to reinstitute and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory spending legislation, enforced by the threat of annual, automatic sequestration; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF SUNSETS.

(a) USA PATRIOT IMPROVEMENT AND REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005.—Section 102(b)(1) of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-177; 50 U.S.C. 1805 note, 50 U.S.C. 1861 note, and 50 U.S.C. 1862 note) is amended by striking “February 28, 2010” and inserting “February 28, 2011”.

(b) INTELLIGENCE REFORM AND TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2004.—Section 6001(b)(1) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458; 118 Stat. 3742; 50 U.S.C. 1801 note) is amended by striking “February 28, 2010” and inserting “February 28, 2011”.

SA 3332. Mr. REID proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 3961, to reform the Medicare SGR payment system for physicians and to reinstitute and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory spending legislation, enforced by the threat of annual, automatic sequestration; as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to extend expiring provisions of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 and Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 until February 28, 2011.”.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I submit the following notice in writing: In ac-

cordance with Rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby give notice in writing that it is my intention to move to suspend Rule XXII, Paragraph 2, for the purpose of proposing and considering the following amendment to H.R. 1299, including germaneness requirements:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . PROHIBITION ON EXTENSION OR ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN CERTAIN AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the Act of June 8, 1906 (commonly known as the “Antiquities Act of 1906”) (16 U.S.C. 431 et seq.), or any other provision of law, no further extension or establishment of national monuments in areas described in subsection (b) may be undertaken.

(b) APPLICABLE AREAS.—Subsection (a) shall apply to—

- (1) the Northwest Sonoran Desert, Arizona;
- (2) the Berryessa Snow Mountains, California;
- (3) the Bodie Hills, California;
- (4) the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, California;
- (5) the Modoc Plateau, California;
- (6) the Vermillion Basin, Colorado;
- (7) the Northern Montana Prairie, Montana;
- (8) the Heart of the Great Basin, Nevada;
- (9) the Lesser Prairie Chicken Preserve, New Mexico;
- (10) the Otero Mesa, New Mexico;
- (11) the Owyhee Desert, Oregon and Nevada;
- (12) the Cedar Mesa region, Utah;
- (13) the San Rafael Swell, Utah; and
- (14) the San Juan Islands, Washington.

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS AND FORESTS

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests.

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 2895, to restore forest landscapes, protect old growth forests, and manage national forests in the eastside forests of the State of Oregon, and for other purposes; S. 2907, to establish a coordinated avalanche protection program, and for other purposes; S. 2966 and H.R. 4474, to authorize the continued use of certain water diversions located on National Forest System land in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in the State of Idaho, and for other purposes; and S. 2791 and H.R. 3759, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to grant economy-related contract extensions of a certain timber contracts between the Secretary of the Interior and timber purchasers, and for other purposes.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony

for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510-6150, or by email to allison_seyferth@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Scott Miller at (202) 224-5488 or Allison Seyferth at (202) 224-4905.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2010, at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate to conduct a hearing on February 24, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS AND THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER AND WILDLIFE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Subcommittee on Water and Wildlife be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24 at 9:30 a.m., in room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled “A Stronger Workforce Investment System for a Stronger Economy” on February 24, 2010. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled “The Homeland Security Department’s Budget Submission for Fiscal Year 2011.”