

CHAMPVA was established in 1973 within the Veterans Administration to provide health care services to dependents and survivors of our Nation's veterans. CHAMPVA enrollment has grown steadily over the years and, as of fiscal year 2009, covers more than 336,000 beneficiaries.

Under the current law, a dependent child loses eligibility for CHAMPVA upon turning 18-years-old, unless the child is enrolled in school on a full-time basis. After losing full-time status at school, or upon turning 23-years-old, an eligible child of a veteran would lose eligibility.

The landmark health care reform act that was enacted into law last year includes a provision that requires private health insurance to cover dependent children until age 26.

I believe it is only fair to afford children who are CHAMPVA beneficiaries the same eligibility as dependent children whose parents have private sector coverage. Beneficiaries are already being cut off from coverage. We need to take prompt action to extend coverage to the dependents of these veterans who have given so much to our country. I urge my colleagues to support this necessary modification.

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

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

S. 490

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

SECTION 1. INCREASE OF MAXIMUM AGE FOR CHILDREN ELIGIBLE FOR MEDICAL CARE UNDER CHAMPVA PROGRAM.

(a) INCREASE.—Subsection (c) of section 1781 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(c)(1) Notwithstanding clauses (i) and (iii) of section 101(4)(A) of this title and except as provided in paragraph (2), for purposes of this section, a child who is eligible for benefits under subsection (a) shall remain eligible for benefits under this section until the child's 26th birthday, regardless of the child's marital status.

“(2) Before January 1, 2014, paragraph (1) shall not apply to a child who is eligible to enroll in an eligible employer-sponsored plan (as defined in section 5000A(f)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986).

“(3) This subsection shall not be construed to limit eligibility for coverage of a child described in section 101(4)(A)(ii) of this title.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Such subsection, as so amended, shall apply with respect to medical care provided on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 87—DESIGNATING THE YEAR OF 2012 AS THE “INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES”

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. ENZI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms.

KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BAUCUS, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 87

Whereas in the United States, there are more than 29,000 cooperatives with 120,000,000 members;

Whereas cooperatives in the United States generate 2,000,000 jobs and make a substantial contribution to the economy of the United States with annual sales of \$652,000,000,000 and assets of \$3,000,000,000,000;

Whereas the cooperative business model has empowered people around the world to improve their lives through economic and social progress;

Whereas cooperatives are a major economic force in developed countries and a powerful business model in developing countries, employing approximately 100,000,000 people;

Whereas there are millions of cooperatives, which are owned and governed by more than 1,000,000,000 members, operating in every nation of the world;

Whereas the economic activity of the largest 300 cooperatives in the world is equal to that of the 10th largest national economy;

Whereas United Nations Resolution 64/136, adopted by the General Assembly on December 18, 2009, designates the year 2012 as the “International Year of Cooperatives”;

Whereas the theme of the International Year of Cooperatives is “Cooperative Enterprise Builds a Better World”; and

Whereas cooperatives are the businesses of the people, and for more than a century, have been a vital part of the world economy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the year 2012 as the “International Year of Cooperatives”;

(2) congratulates cooperatives and members of cooperatives in the United States and around the world on the recognition of the United Nations of 2012 as the “International Year of Cooperatives”;

(3) recognizes the vital role cooperatives play in the economic and social well-being of the United States;

(4) urges the establishment of a National Committee for the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives to be comprised of representatives from each Federal agency, all cooperative sectors, and key stakeholders;

(5) recognizes the importance of raising the profile of cooperatives and demonstrating the manner by which cooperatives build local wealth, generate employment, and provide competition in the marketplace; and

(6) encourages highlighting the positive impact of cooperatives and developing new programs for domestic and international cooperative development.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, today I submitted a resolution with my friend, Senator THAD COCHRAN of Mississippi, to recognize and celebrate the importance of cooperatives to our economy, and our rural communities in particular. In 2009, the United Nations General Assembly officially declared 2012 as “The International Year of Cooperatives” through a resolution calling on governments to recognize the important role cooperatives play in providing economic opportunity for millions of people

in the United States and throughout the world. Our resolution highlights the impact of cooperatives and encourages the development of programs, both here and abroad, for cooperative development.

The Capper-Volstead Act of 1922 was the first legal protection for the cooperative business model in which a business is democratically controlled and owned by its members and operates for the mutual benefit of its members. The membership of a cooperative is comprised of the individuals who use the business' services or buy its goods. The Capper-Volstead Act was originally enacted with the purpose of legally empowering farmers to pool their marketing resources and to improve farmers' bargaining power with the buyers of their products. The cooperative business model has since expanded to other areas of the economy, and has contributed significantly to economic growth in rural communities.

A recent study from the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives found that today, 29,000 U.S. cooperatives operate at 73,000 places of business throughout the country. They have a significant impact on the economy, employing around 2 million people and generating more than \$650 billion in revenue annually. Additionally, the member-owned and controlled nature of cooperatives, particularly in rural States like South Dakota, helps to ensure that economic activity remains in the community. Having a membership stake in a local business tends to make one more likely to buy goods or services from that business, thereby contributing to local economic development. Research has even shown that when consumers find out a business is organized as a cooperative, they are more likely to do business with that entity.

Overall, Americans hold 350 million memberships in cooperatives. A majority of our Nation's farmers are members of nearly 3,000 farmer-owned cooperatives, which provide more than 250 thousand jobs in our economy. There are more than 900 rural electric cooperatives servicing 42 million people in almost every State, and over 91 million people bank at more than 7,500 credit unions throughout the country. In South Dakota alone, 81 farm supply and marketing cooperatives claim 65,000 memberships, generating \$5.3 billion in annual revenue. The 50 credit unions located in my home State hold 24,600 memberships and generate \$2.2 billion in assets. Additionally, there are 125,000 members of the 30 electric cooperatives and 49,000 members of 11 telephone cooperatives throughout the State. Cooperatives clearly take many different forms in our communities, providing jobs and opportunities for rural residents, and in the case of agriculture, provide new markets for the products they produce.

My resolution will officially include the United States in recognizing 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives,

and encourage the growth and development of businesses throughout the world. I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing and celebrating the contributions of cooperatives and pass this important resolution this year.

SENATE RESOLUTION 88—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT BUSINESSES OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD RETAIN THE OPTION TO ORGANIZE AS THOSE BUSINESSES CHOOSE, INCLUDING THE FLOW-THROUGH ENTITIES, AND NOT BE FORCED TO REORGANIZE AS C CORPORATIONS

Ms. SNOWE submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. RES. 88

Whereas the tremendous growth in businesses organized as flow-through entities, including S corporations, has resulted in the number of flow-through entities far exceeding the number of C corporations;

Whereas there are more than 26,000,000 businesses operating as flow-through entities in the United States, representing 82 percent of all United States businesses, relative to just 5,900,000 C corporations;

Whereas these flow-through and small businesses create 70 percent of all new jobs and are responsible for 44 percent of the total private payroll in the United States;

Whereas under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as in effect in March 2011, these job-generating businesses are taxed at individual tax rates based on the individual income of the business owners, making these businesses highly sensitive to changes in individual tax rates;

Whereas as of March 2011, 50 percent of all income above \$250,000 is attributable to flow-through businesses;

Whereas, if individual tax rates increase after 2012 in accordance with the proposals set forth by the President, flow-through businesses will face a massive aggregate tax increase, potentially in excess of \$800,000,000,000;

Whereas the Secretary of the Treasury has proposed forcing flow-through entities to reorganize as C corporations to make them subject to double taxation as a way to impose more taxes on these businesses in order to pay for the budgetary policies of the President; and

Whereas forcing corporate reorganizations for purely tax-driven reasons represents a misguided incentive, a misallocation of precious business resources, and a serious threat to job creation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Federal Government should preserve the organizational options available for businesses to operate as the businesses choose, including as flow-through entities;

(2) raising taxes on businesses that create jobs will be detrimental to the economic recovery of the United States;

(3) generating increased tax revenue on the backs of the small businesses of the United States is inconsistent with, and will impede, job creation; and

(4) any legislative approach to comprehensive fundamental tax reform should include a debate on the individual rates at which most businesses in the United States should be taxed, rather than narrowly focusing on corporate tax rates or forcing small business owners into corporate status for tax purposes.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise to submit a sense of the Senate resolution that clarifies my opposition to tax increases on the job-creating sector of our economy—small business.

It is becoming increasingly clear, and increasingly concerning, that the administration is proposing to raise taxes on America's small businesses, either by forcing them to reorganize as subchapter C corporations solely for tax reasons and be subjected to new and additional taxes, or, by allowing them to remain organized as flow-through entities, where they will face massive increases after 2012 when current tax rates expire. Our Nation simply cannot afford an impending tax increase of over \$800 billion. Subjecting small businesses to the double taxation of corporate-entity status would be a major mistake.

There has been tremendous growth in the number of flow-through entities—that is, non-C corporations—over the past 30 years and this growth has only accelerated in the last decade. Since 1997, S corporations have outnumbered C corporations. Fifty percent of all income above \$250,000 currently is attributable to flow-through businesses. By 2007, only 5.9 million out of a total 32.1 million U.S. businesses, or just 18 percent, were C corporations, meaning the overwhelming number of businesses in this country organize as flow-through entities.

The administration is proposing to eliminate choice and require C corporation formation purely to generate revenue. C corporate form helps generate revenue because it is inherently a double tax, first at the entity then at the individual shareholder level. The Treasury Secretary said that this proposed change could subject up to \$3 trillion to new and additional income taxes.

In this regard, the administration is proposing to raise taxes on America's small businesses: either by forcing them to reorganize as C corporations solely for tax reasons and be subjected to new and additional levies, or if the administration deigns to let them remain organized as flow-through entities, then they will be hit with massive increased taxes after 2012 when current tax rates expire—an impending tax increase of over \$800 billion that job creators cannot afford.

Individual income tax rates absolutely affect these businesses. The growth in the number of flow-through businesses is critical to understanding why the increase in individual rates is so damaging to small business job generation.

When we talk about flow-through entities what we really mean are America's small businesses. A discussion of tax reform must not ignore the small businesses that make up the backbone of America. The administration continues to talk about corporate tax reform but it should be talking about business tax reform, which of necessity must include a real discussion of individual tax rates.

Many of America's small businesses choose the flow-through option to avoid double taxation. Forcing them to convert to C corporate status is simply another way to increase their costs and raise their taxes. This would hurt job creation since 70 percent of our good American jobs are created by these businesses.

I urge my colleagues to review my proposal and join me in telling those who would raise taxes on the millions of businesswomen and businessmen we are counting on to create the jobs we need to put the recession firmly behind us—no thank you.

SENATE RESOLUTION 89—RELATING TO THE DEATH OF FRANK W. BUCKLES, THE LONGEST SURVIVING UNITED STATES VETERAN OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. BEGICH, Mrs. McCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. KERRY, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 89

Whereas Frank Woodruff Buckles is the last known American World War I veteran, who passed away on February 27, 2011, at the age of 110, and represents his generation of veterans;

Whereas America's support of Great Britain, France, Belgium, and its other allies in World War I marked the first time in the Nation's history that American soldiers went abroad in defense of liberty against foreign aggression, and it marked the true beginning of the "American century";

Whereas more than 4,000,000 men and women from the United States served in uniform during World War I, among them 2 future presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower;

Whereas 2,000,000 individuals from the United States served overseas during World War I, including 200,000 naval personnel who served on the seas;

Whereas the United States suffered 375,000 casualties during World War I, including 116,516 deaths;

Whereas the events of 1914 through 1918 shaped the world, the United States, and the lives of millions of people in countless ways; and

Whereas Frank Woodruff Buckles is the last veteran to represent the extraordinary legacy of the World War I veterans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate recognizes the historic contributions of all United States veterans who served in the First World War; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of Frank W. Buckles, the longest surviving United States veteran of the First World War.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Senate is directed to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the deceased.