

is, in my view, his greatest achievement to date. He has given Congress a roadmap for cuts that really should be no-brainers.

But Congress' record on securing cuts is less than stellar. Ronald Reagan once said that nothing comes closer to eternal life than a government program. Congress' committee structure is set up to authorize and reauthorize new programs. It is set up to appropriate money for those programs.

But there are few institutionalized forums in Congress for spending restraint.

That is why I am introducing today, with my colleague from Colorado, Senator MARK UDALL, a Senate Resolution that will create a Committee to Reduce Government Waste. After last week's GAO report, there is no longer any doubt that the Federal Government is deluged with wasteful, non-performing, and underperforming programs.

This committee would be required, every year, to identify wasteful government programs and recommend legislation to either cut them or reduce them in scope.

Most importantly, the consideration of this legislation would be expedited, subject to Section 310 of the Congressional Budget Act.

There is a precedent for a committee such as this one. In response to the rising costs of World War II, Senator Harry F. Byrd of Virginia proposed the establishment of a committee to cut wasteful programs instead of raising taxes. In just three years, the committee cut wasteful programs, resulting in more than \$38 billion in today's dollars. Given the growth of government in the intervening 6 decades, I expect that our anti-appropriations committee will have an even easier time identifying wasteful spending and programs today.

This would be a truly bipartisan committee, with 4 members, 2 Republicans and 2 Democrats, from each of the Senate Finance, Budget, and Appropriations Committees.

Ultimately, getting our budget deficits and structural debt under control is going to take meaningful action from both sides of the aisle. This needs to be a bipartisan process, and I could not be more pleased that I am being joined in this effort by my Democratic colleague from Colorado, Senator UDALL.

The American people have spoken loud and clear. Every day families make tough choices to balance their books, and they expect Congress to do the same. Dozens of groups, representing millions of American taxpayers, have come together to ask Congress to support a committee devoted to eliminating government waste.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on enacting this resolution. Senators hear every day from interest groups seeking more money from the Federal Government. They are well organized, well financed, and well versed in the ways of the Senate. The com-

mittee we are proposing will make sure that the citizens who have to foot the bill for all of this government spending will have a venue where their concerns take precedence.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 152. Mr. REID of Nevada submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 143 proposed by Mr. REID of Nevada (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

SA 153. Mr. REID of Nevada submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 23, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 154. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 23, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 155. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 141 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 23, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 156. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 141 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 23, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 157. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1, making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 152. Mr. REID of Nevada submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 143 proposed by Mr. REID of Nevada (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; as follows:

On page 2 of the amendment, after line 11, add the following:

"(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (d) shall take effect 1 year and 1 day after the date of enactment of the Patent Reform Act of 2011."

SA 153. Mr. REID of Nevada submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the amendment, add the following:

SEC. ____ . PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN EPSCOR ELIGIBLE JURISDICTIONS.

Chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, is further amended by inserting after section 123, the following:

"SEC. 124. EPSCOR.

"Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, for purposes of section 123, a micro entity shall include an applicant who certifies that—

"(1) the applicant's employer, from which the applicant obtains the majority of the applicant's income, is a State public institu-

tion of higher education, as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002), in a jurisdiction that is eligible to qualify under the Research Infrastructure Improvement Grant Program administered by the Office of Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR); or

"(2) the applicant has assigned, granted, conveyed, or is under an obligation by contract or law to assign, grant, or convey, a license or other ownership interest in the particular application to such State public institution, which is in a jurisdiction that is eligible to qualify under the Research Infrastructure Improvement Grant Program administered by the Office of Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)."

SA 154. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

(e) EXCLUSION.—This section does not apply to that part of an invention that is a method, apparatus, computer program product, or system, that is used solely for preparing a tax or information return or other tax filing, including one that records, transmits, transfers, or organizes data related to such filing.

SA 155. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 141 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, line 3, beginning with "shall not" strike all through line 7, and insert "does not apply to that part of an invention that is a method, apparatus, computer program product, or system, that is used solely for preparing a tax or information return or other tax filing, including one that records, transmits, transfers, or organizes data".

SA 156. Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 141 proposed by Mr. BAUCUS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) to the bill S. 23, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1, strike lines 3 through 8 and insert the following:

(e) EXCLUSION.—This section does not apply to that part of an invention that is a method, apparatus, computer program product, or system, that is used solely for preparing a tax or information return or other tax filing, including one that records, transmits, transfers, or organizes data related to such filing.

SA 157. Ms. SNOWE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1, making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE —BIENNIAL BUDGETING

SEC. .01. GOVERNMENT PLANS ON A BIENNIAL BASIS.

(a) STRATEGIC PLANS.—Section 306 of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “September 30, 1997” and inserting “September 30, 2011”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “five years forward” and inserting “6 years forward”;

(B) by striking “at least every three years” and inserting “at least every 4 years”;

(C) by striking beginning with “, except that” through “four years”;

(3) in subsection (c), by inserting a comma after “section” the second place it appears and adding “including a strategic plan submitted by September 30, 2011 meeting the requirements of subsection (a)”.

(b) BUDGET CONTENTS AND SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Paragraph (28) of section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking “beginning with fiscal year 1999, a” and inserting “beginning with fiscal year 2010, a biennial”.

(c) PERFORMANCE PLANS.—Section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter before paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “section 1105(a)(29)” and inserting “section 1105(a)(28)”;

(ii) by striking “an annual” and inserting “a biennial”;

(B) in paragraph (1) by inserting after “program activity” the following: “for both years 1 and 2 of the biennial plan”;

(C) in paragraph (5) by striking “and” after the semicolon,

(D) in paragraph (6) by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and inserting “and” after the inserted semicolon; and

(E) by adding after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) cover a 2-year period beginning with the first fiscal year of the next biennial budget cycle.”;

(2) in subsection (d) by striking “annual” and inserting “biennial”;

(3) in paragraph (6) of subsection (f) by striking “annual” and inserting “biennial”.

(d) MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY.—Section 9703 of title 31, United States Code, relating to managerial accountability, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the first sentence by striking “annual”;

(B) by striking “section 1105(a)(29)” and inserting “section 1105(a)(28)”;

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the first sentence by striking “one or” before “years”;

(B) in the second sentence by striking “a subsequent year” and inserting “a subsequent 2-year period”;

(C) in the third sentence by striking “three” and inserting “4”.

(e) PILOT PROJECTS FOR PERFORMANCE BUDGETING.—Section 1119 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) of subsection (d), by striking “annual” and inserting “biennial”;

(2) in subsection (e), by striking “annual” and inserting “biennial”.

(f) STRATEGIC PLANS.—Section 2802 of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) is subsection (a), by striking “September 30, 1997” and inserting “September 30, 2011”;

(2) by striking “five years forward” and inserting “6 years forward”;

(3) in subsection (b), by striking “at least every three years” and inserting “at least every 4 years”;

(4) in subsection (c), by inserting a comma after “section” the second place it appears and inserting “including a strategic plan submitted by September 30, 2011 meeting the requirements of subsection (a)”.

(g) PERFORMANCE PLANS.—Section 2803(a) of title 39, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter before paragraph (1), by striking “an annual” and inserting “a biennial”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by inserting after “program activity” the following: “for both years 1 and 2 of the biennial plan”;

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(4) in paragraph (6), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(5) by adding after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) cover a 2-year period beginning with the first fiscal year of the next biennial budget cycle.”.

(h) COMMITTEE VIEWS OF PLANS AND REPORTS.—Section 301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act (2 U.S.C. 632(d)) is amended by adding at the end “Each committee of the Senate or the House of Representatives shall review the strategic plans, performance plans, and performance reports, required under section 306 of title 5, United States Code, and sections 1115 and 1116 of title 31, United States Code, of all agencies under the jurisdiction of the committee. Each committee may provide its views on such plans or reports to the Committee on the Budget of the applicable House.”.

(i) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on March 1, 2012.

(2) AGENCY ACTIONS.—Effective on and after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency shall take such actions as necessary to prepare and submit any plan or report in accordance with the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. .02. BIENNIAL APPROPRIATIONS BILLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“CONSIDERATION OF BIENNIAL APPROPRIATIONS BILLS

“SEC. 317. It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate in any odd-numbered year to consider any regular bill providing new budget authority or a limitation on obligations under the jurisdiction of any of the subcommittees of the Committees on Appropriations for only the first fiscal year of a biennium, unless the program, project, or activity for which the new budget authority or obligation limitation is provided will require no additional authority beyond 1 year and will be completed or terminated after the amount provided has been expended.”.

(b) AMENDMENT TO TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents set forth in section 1(b) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 is amended by adding after the item relating to section 316 the following new item:

“Sec. 317. Consideration of biennial appropriations bills.”.

SEC. .03. REPORT ON TWO-YEAR FISCAL PERIOD.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall—

(1) determine the impact and feasibility of changing the definition of a fiscal year and the budget process based on that definition to a 2-year fiscal period with a biennial budget process based on the 2-year period; and

(2) report the findings of the study to the Committees on the Budget of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

SEC. .04. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as provided in section .03, this title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect on January 1, 2012, and shall apply to budget resolutions and appropriations for the biennium beginning with fiscal year 2013.

WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 55 and the Senate proceed to that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 55) expressing support for designation of a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.”

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

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 55) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 55

Whereas the Vietnam War was fought in the Republic of South Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and involved North Vietnamese regular forces and Viet Cong guerrilla forces in armed conflict with United States Armed Forces and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam;

Whereas the United States Armed Forces became involved in Vietnam because the United States Government wanted to provide direct military support to the Government of South Vietnam to defend itself against the growing Communist threat from North Vietnam;

Whereas members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an advisory role to the Government of the Republic of South Vietnam in 1961;

Whereas, as a result of the Gulf of Tonkin incidents on August 2 and 4, 1964, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (Public Law 88-408), on August 7, 1964, which provided the authority to the President of the United States to prosecute the war against North Vietnam;

Whereas, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units arrived in Vietnam;

Whereas, by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in Vietnam, and by 1969, a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached;

Whereas, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, which required the release of all United States prisoners-of-war held in North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam;

Whereas, on March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the withdrawal of combat units and combat support units from South Vietnam;