

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 173(f)(8) of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2918(f)(8)) is amended by striking “February 13, 2011” and inserting “January 1, 2017”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to months beginning after February 12, 2011.

SEC. 216. EXTENSION OF COBRA BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN TAA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS AND PBGC RECIPIENTS.

(a) ERISA AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PBGC RECIPIENTS.—Section 602(2)(A)(v) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1162(2)(A)(v)) is amended by striking “February 12, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(2) TAA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Section 602(2)(A)(vi) of such Act (29 U.S.C. 1162(2)(A)(vi)) is amended by striking “February 12, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(b) IRC AMENDMENTS.—

(1) PBGC RECIPIENTS.—Section 4980B(f)(2)(B)(i)(V) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “February 12, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(2) TAA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—Section 4980B(f)(2)(B)(i)(VI) of such Code is amended by striking “February 12, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(c) PHSA AMENDMENTS.—Section 2202(2)(A)(iv) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300bb-2(2)(A)(iv)) is amended by striking “February 12, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2016”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to periods of coverage which would (without regard to the amendments made by this section) end on or after February 13, 2011.

SEC. 217. ADDITION OF COVERAGE THROUGH VOLUNTARY EMPLOYEES' BENEFICIARY ASSOCIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 35(e)(1)(K) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “February 13, 2012” and inserting “January 1, 2017”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to coverage months beginning after February 12, 2011.

SEC. 218. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7527(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “February 13, 2011” and inserting “January 1, 2017”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to certificates issued after February 12, 2011.

SA 490. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 782, to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to reauthorize that Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 29, after line 20, insert the following:

SEC. 22. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) FUNDING LIMITATION.—No Federal funds may be obligated by the Secretary of Transportation or any other Federal officer for any study, project, or other effort to carry out the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program until at least 6 months after the Congress receives the reports required under subsections (b) and (c).

(b) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report to Congress that contains—

(1) cost projections for carrying out President Obama's goal of building a high-speed

rail system that gives 80 percent of Americans access to high-speed rail by 2036;

(2) the amount of government subsidies that would be needed to operate and maintain each high-speed rail line receiving funding in the first 10 years of operation;

(3) a review of the cost-benefit analysis methods used to evaluate grant requests for high-speed rail projects, including the impact of such analyses on the grant award process;

(4) a review of the accuracy and methodology of the cost estimates of the California High-Speed Rail Authority and the California Legislative Analyst's Office;

(5) a review of the accuracy and methodology of ridership estimates for each grant recipient;

(6) an analysis of the reasons for cost increases of 15 percent or greater since the time the application was received for any grant-recipient project;

(7) the principle reasons behind the decisions by the States of Florida, Wisconsin, and Ohio to return Federal funding for high-speed rail projects in those States; and

(8) a review of—

(A) all high-speed rail projects costing more than \$1,000,000,000 that have been constructed, or proposed for construction, in countries within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; and

(B) available data concerning government subsidies for the projects referred to in subparagraph (A), including cost overruns and profitability.

(c) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall submit a report to Congress regarding Federal grants awarded for high-speed rail projects that includes—

(1) a description of the process by which the Department of Transportation incorporated the volatility of the development, planning, and construction cost estimates into its decision making process when awarding grants and choosing routes and segments;

(2) a description of how the Department of Transportation valued the expected level or potential need for government subsidies to operate and maintain high-speed rail lines receiving funding in the first 10 years of operation;

(3) a review of the cost benefit analysis used by the Department of Transportation when deciding to award the grants and how that analysis influenced the award of Federal funds; and

(4) a review of the impact of the Department of Transportation's decision making process and cost benefit analyses on the high-speed rail grant awards.

SA 491. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 141, recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary; as follows:

On page 3, beginning on line 11, strike “volunteers,” and all that follows through line 13 and insert “volunteers and staff of the GOD'S CHILD project.”.

SA 492. Mr. MENENDEZ (for Mr. CONRAD) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 141, recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD Project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary; as follows:

In the preamble, on page 2, in the first clause, strike “, the hometown of Patrick Atkinson”.

In the preamble, on page 3, in the clause immediately preceding the resolved clause, strike “and Patrick Atkinson have received numerous accolades recognizing their service” and insert “has received numerous accolades recognizing its service”.

SA 493. Mr. MCCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 679, to reduce the number of executive positions subject to Senate confirmation; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 2(w).

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library will meet on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at 11:30 a.m., in SC-6 to conduct its organization meeting for the 112th Congress.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee on (202) 224-6352.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON CONGRESS ON PRINTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Joint Committee of Congress on Printing will meet on Wednesday, June 22, 2011, at 11:30 a.m., in SC-6 to conduct its organization meeting for the 112th Congress.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Lynden Armstrong at the Rules and Administration Committee on (202) 224-6352.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 782

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Tuesday, June 21, when the Senate resumes consideration of S. 782, the Economic Development Revitalization Act, there be up to 10 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 782.

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

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE GOD'S CHILD PROJECT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 141 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 141) recognizing the efforts and accomplishments of the GOD'S CHILD Project and congratulating the GOD'S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be considered, the Conrad amendment to the preamble, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; the resolution be considered, the Conrad amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, and the resolution, as amended, be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 492) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the preamble)

In the preamble, on page 2, in the first clause, strike “, the hometown of Patrick Atkinson”.

In the preamble, on page 3, in the clause immediately preceding the resolved clause, strike “and Patrick Atkinson have received numerous accolades recognizing their service” and insert “has received numerous accolades recognizing its service”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 491) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the resolved clause)

On page 3, beginning on line 11, strike “volunteers,” and all that follows through line 13 and insert “volunteers and staff of the GOD’S CHILD project.”.

The resolution (S. Res. 141), as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 141

Whereas international educator, human rights leader, and native of the State of North Dakota Patrick Atkinson, deeply concerned about the plight of poor and exploited children around the globe, established the nonprofit GOD’S CHILD Project in 1991 with the mission of breaking the bitter chains of poverty through education and information;

Whereas the GOD’S CHILD Project has a global presence, serving the most vulnerable women and children on 3 continents, with operations in El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Malawi, and the United States;

Whereas the international GOD’S CHILD Project, true to its roots, maintains its global headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota;

Whereas more than 5,000 orphaned, abandoned, and impoverished children and nearly 8,700 widowed, abandoned, and single mothers and their dependents receive care from, and are educated by, the GOD’S CHILD Project;

Whereas since the GOD’S CHILD Project was founded, more than 18,000 parentless children and thousands more women have been given hope by the GOD’S CHILD Project;

Whereas the GOD’S CHILD Project, taking a comprehensive view of helping the destitute and exploited break free from poverty and oppression, operates schools, a family clinic, social work department, psychology clinic, domestic violence program, legal aid department, and a center for malnourished children;

Whereas in response to the transnational problem of human trafficking, the GOD’S CHILD Project established the Institute for Trafficked, Exploited, and Missing Persons

in 2001 to address the issues of human trafficking and exploitation, which are particularly severe in Central America;

Whereas the GOD’S CHILD Project is often 1 of the first organizations to respond to devastating natural disasters, including Tropical Storm Agatha, which ravaged Central America in 2010, taking nearly 180 lives and destroying the homes of thousands;

Whereas each year, approximately 2,500 volunteers and 45 homebuilding groups from around the world join with the GOD’S CHILD Project staff to compassionately serve their brothers and sisters in need; and

Whereas the GOD’S CHILD Project has received numerous accolades recognizing its service to the poor from United States and foreign organizations, including the Guatemalan Congressional Medal of Honor, Guatemala’s Goodwill Ambassador For Peace, and the 2010 Humanitarian Award from the Bismarck City Human Rights Commission: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the GOD’S CHILD Project on its 20th anniversary;

(2) commends the GOD’S CHILD Project for its charitable service to the poor and its efforts to help thousands break the bonds of poverty and exploitation; and

(3) recognizes those individuals who have served impoverished children and women throughout the world under the auspices of the GOD’S CHILD Project, including the volunteers and staff of the GOD’S CHILD Project.

JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 211 and the Senate proceed to its consideration.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 211) observing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 211) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 211

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach frontier areas of the United States, and in particular the Southwestern States, for more than 2½ years after President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation, which was issued on January 1, 1863, and months after the conclusion of the Civil War;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were free;

Whereas African-Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June

19th, commonly known as “Juneteenth Independence Day”, as the anniversary of their emancipation;

Whereas African-Americans from the Southwest continue the tradition of celebrating Juneteenth Independence Day as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas, for more than 145 years, Juneteenth Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures; and

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves remains an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day to the Nation;

(B) supports the continued celebration of Juneteenth Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the Nation; and

(C) encourages the people of the United States to observe Juneteenth Independence Day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs; and

(2) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the celebration of the end of slavery is an important and enriching part of the history and heritage of the United States; and

(B) history should be regarded as a means for understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it recess until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that following morning business the Senate proceed to executive session under the previous order; further, that the filing deadline for second-degree amendments to S. 782, the Economic Development Revitalization Act, be 11 a.m. on Tuesday.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, the first rollcall vote of the week will begin at approximately noon tomorrow on confirmation of the Simon nomination. Senators should expect up to three additional rollcall votes at 4:15 p.m. on confirmation of the Panetta nomination, cloture on the Economic Development Revitalization Act, and cloture on the motion to proceed to the