

prescribed for the private sector in the Pension Protection Act of 2006, which Mr. BOEHNER of Ohio introduced, the House and Senate passed with significant bipartisan support, and President George W. Bush signed into law. In enacting the Pension Protection Act, Congress endorsed pairing automatic enrollment with automatic escalation, by incentivizing companies to automatically enroll employees in 401(k) plans at no less than a 3 percent savings rate, and automatically escalate that rate by at least 1 percent for at least 3 years.

This act is informed by rigorous oversight I have conducted as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia. For example, at a recent Subcommittee hearing, Dr. Brigitte Madrian, a Harvard Kennedy School professor and leading expert on employer-sponsored retirement savings plans, stated, “the evidence from the private sector is that automatic escalation is, in fact, extremely effective at increasing employee savings rates. And you asked specifically is this [automatic escalation] something that should be considered for the Thrift Savings Plan, and I would say absolutely.”

To preempt any possible misconceptions or misunderstandings that may arise regarding this act, I want to be clear from the outset about which employees the Save More Tomorrow Act applies to, and the voluntary nature of the bill. Since this act builds on the statutory framework established by the Thrift Savings Enhancement Act, it only applies to newly hired Federal employees who are eligible to participate in the TSP’s automatic enrollment feature. Additionally, just like the TSP’s auto enrollment feature, auto escalation authorized by this act would be voluntary, and allow participants to terminate default contributions, or change contribution rates, at any time.

This bill has a limited, targeted scope. It would increase the savings only of the small percentage of new employees who enroll in the TSP, but do not raise their contribution rate enough to reach the goal Congress established with FERSA of having most Federal employees contributing at least 5 percent of basic pay. Under the Thrift Savings Plan Enhancement Act, an impressive 97.2 percent of new Federal employees are enrolling in the TSP—82,632 Federal employees have been automatically enrolled in the TSP since the practice began in August 2010. Most of those employees increase their contributions far above the default rate of 3 percent. These enrollees boast an average TSP savings rate of 12.1 percent. Currently, only about 9 percent of employees in the Federal Employee Retirement System enrolled in the TSP contribute less than 5 percent.

Of course, one must not confuse this act’s limited scope with the potential

benefits. From the most recent survey of TSP participants, we know that just like in the private sector, low-income workers who can least afford to forgo matching contributions are the most likely to do so. Lower-income Federal employees are more than twice as likely as higher-income employees to cite automatic enrollment as the reason they are contributing to the TSP. Many employees who contribute less than 5 percent are not even aware of the benefits of increasing the amount they save—18 percent of this group reported they did not contribute 5 percent because they were unaware agencies matched contributions dollar-for-dollar on the first 3 percent of basic pay, and 50 cents on the dollar for the next 2 percent.

Today’s Federal workers must plan carefully to ensure their retirement security. Fortunately, the vast majority of the Federal employees are responsibly saving for retirement, exhibiting average savings rates that are far greater than the private sector. However, I am concerned that the most financially vulnerable Federal employees, individuals earning less than \$25,000 a year, are saving at a lower rate that will hinder their ability to retire with dignity. We should build on the success of the Thrift Savings Plan Enhancement Act by making it as easy as possible for employees to increase their contributions.

The Save More Tomorrow Act is a limited, yet effective legislative response to do just this. Informed by rigorous data from real world experiences in the private sector, this act represents the best in serious, evidence-based policymaking. The modest authorities provided by the Save More Tomorrow Act will enhance the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board’s ability to meet FERSA’s goal of encouraging TSP contributions of 5 percent of pay. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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. 3175

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Save More Tomorrow Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. AUTOMATIC ESCALATIONS.

Section 8432(b)(2) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “enrolled to make” and all that follows and inserting the following: “enrolled to—

“(i) make contributions under subsection (a) at the default percentage of basic pay; and

“(ii) increase the percentage of basic pay contributed under subsection (a) by the eligible individual by 1 percent each year beginning in the first year following the year in which the eligible individual began making

contributions under clause (i) and each year thereafter for not less than 2 years (which the Executive Director shall establish by regulation);” and

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by inserting “and have the contributions of the individual automatically increased” after “automatically enrolled”;

(B) in clause (i), by inserting “(which shall terminate the automatic increases in the contributions of the employee under subparagraph (A)(ii))” after “automatic enrollment”; and

(C) in clause (ii), by inserting “and an automatic increase in contributions under subparagraph (A)(ii)” after “automatic enrollment”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 459—COMMENDING THE 1ST STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION UPON ITS COMPLETION OF A DEPLOYMENT TO AFGHANISTAN IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM

Mr. BEGICH (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 459

Whereas the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, known as the “Arctic Wolves”, is headquartered in Fort Wainwright, Alaska and is made up of approximately 4,300 selfless, brave, and dedicated soldiers;

Whereas the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division has a distinguished history of service to the United States, beginning with World War I and continuing through Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division most recently departed for Afghanistan in April 2011, following 2 deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom;

Whereas, while deployed in Afghanistan, the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division conducted more than 60 named operations in Zabul Province and Southern Kandahar Province;

Whereas, while deployed in Afghanistan, the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division conducted more than 7,500 patrols;

Whereas, while deployed in Afghanistan, the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division cleared more than 600 improvised explosive devices and more than 9,300 pounds of explosives;

Whereas 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division members Specialist James R. Burnett, Jr., Private Danny Chen, Private First Class Matthew C. Colin, Specialist Ryan J. Cook, Private First Class Douglas L. Cordo, First Sergeant Kenneth B. Elwell, Specialist Douglas J. Green, Private First Class Ryan J. Larson, Specialist Christophe Jean Claude Marquis, Sergeant First Class Johnathan B. McCain, Specialist Bradley L. Melton, Private First Class Brandon S. Mullins, Private First Class Dustin P. Napier, Specialist Calvin M. Pereda, Private First Class Cheizray Pressley, Sergeant Rodolfo Rodriguez, Jr., Sergeant Timothy D. Sayne, Sergeant Jeffrey C. S. Sherer, Private First Class Tyler M. Springmann, Private Lamarol J. Tucker, and Private First Class

Brett E. Wood gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country in support of the mission in Afghanistan;

Whereas the members of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division are now returning to Alaska to their proud families and to an appreciative and admiring country;

Whereas the strength and unflinching support of the families of the members of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division have made the United States as strong as it is today; and

Whereas the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division has served with courage, compassion, and selflessness, and has earned the respect of not only Alaskans, but of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the members of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division for their exemplary service to the United States and the completion of their first deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; and

(2) recognizes the service and sacrifice of the members of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division and their families.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I rise to commend the members of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division from Fort Wainwright, AK upon completion of their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I am pleased to offer a resolution with Senator LISA MURKOWSKI to recognize the service of these Arctic Wolves who made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation.

Deployed to Kandahar, one of the most volatile areas of Afghanistan, the 1/25 SBC T conducted more than 7,500 patrols and over 60 named operations. They made significant gains against insurgents in the Southern region. Our nation will forever be grateful to them and we will never forget those who perished or were wounded during their tour.

We must also never forget Private Danny Chen. While the actions of those involved in the maltreatment of Private Chen are not a reflection of the honorable service of thousands of others in the brigade, abuse and hazing of another individual must never be tolerated under any circumstances. Private Chen was a son, he was a friend, he was a soldier. He will be remembered.

I also want to thank the families of the Arctic Wolves for their service and sacrifice. The support of their loved ones gives strength to our military.

I urge my colleagues to join me in thanking the Arctic Wolves and their families for the sacrifices they make every day on behalf of our country.

NOTICE OF HEARING

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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 Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing

will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2012, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to receive testimony on the report produced by the American Energy Innovation Council titled "Catalyzing American Ingenuity: The Role of Government in Energy Innovation" and related issues.

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 may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Abigail_Campbell@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Mike Carr at (202) 224-8164 or Abigail Campbell at (202) 224-1219.

MEASURE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 5652

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I understand that H.R. 5652 has been received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title for the first time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5652) to provide reconciliation pursuant to section 201 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2013.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask for its second reading and object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2012

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 15, 2012; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; and that the majority leader be recognized; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. It is the majority leader's intention to resume the motion to proceed to the Export-Import Bank reauthorization bill, legislation particularly important to my State, tomorrow morning, and equally divide the first hour, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

Today we reached an agreement to complete action on the Export-Import

Bank reauthorization. Senators should expect up to six votes as early as 2:15 tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:42 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 15, 2012, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. MICHAEL T. FLYNN

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. (SELECT) WILLIAM M. FAULKNER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. JOHN M. PAXTON, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. JOHN A. TOOLAN, JR.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. PAUL K. LEBIDINE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. ROBERT B. NELLER

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be major

JAMES J. RENDA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

AUGUST S. HEIN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE REGULAR AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant colonel

CHRISTOPHER J. MATHEWS

To be major

CATHERINE M WARE
TIMOTHY K. WILLIAMS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

RICARDO A. BRAVO