

Wall Street Reform: Enhancing Bank Supervision and Reducing Systemic Risk.”

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 6, 2012, at 2:30 p.m. in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The Committee will hold a hearing entitled, “The European Union Emissions Trading System.”

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 6, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 6, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., in room SD 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Ensuring that Federal Prosecutors Meet Discovery Obligations.”

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on June 6, 2012, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD 226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Nominations.”

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on June 6, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Pension Poachers: Preventing Fraud and Protecting America’s Veterans.”

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that two detailees from my office, Herrick Fox and Benjamin Thomas, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the debate on S. 3240, the Agriculture Reform, Food, and Jobs Act of 2012.

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

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Chris Avery, a fellow in Senator COONS’ office, be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the 112th Congress.

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator LEAHY, I ask unanimous consent that Michelle Lacko, a fellow on the Senate Judiciary Committee, be granted Senate floor privileges for the duration of the debate on S. 3240, the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012.

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Benedikt Springer from Senator MERKLEY’s staff.

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

NATIONAL HUNGER AWARENESS
DAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 484, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 484) designating June 7, 2012, as National Hunger Awareness Day.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise in honor of National Hunger Awareness Day, which takes place on June 7. On this day, we focus on the difficult reality that exists for millions of Americans. Hunger is a form of poverty, and the persistence of hunger in the wealthiest nation in the world is both alarming and unacceptable. It is long past due that we recognize the devastating impact of hunger and commit to protect the anti-hunger programs that help children and families in their time of need.

Today, June 6, marks a sad day in America, the forty-fourth anniversary of Senator Robert Kennedy’s death. In April 1967, Senator Kennedy visited homes in the Mississippi Delta where he was stunned to see babies with distended bellies and ice boxes and cupboards bare of food. Senator Kennedy was visibly moved by those he met with on his trip and went back to Washington to make hunger a national issue and to raise federal support for hungry children and families.

Today the fight continues. Hunger remains a reality in all of our communities. We see it in the long lines at our food pantries. We hear it from seniors forced to choose between groceries and medication. And we see it in the faces of children at school who have not had a decent meal since yesterday’s school lunch.

During a visit to a food bank in Champaign, IL, I noticed a young woman who I thought worked there or served on the board, but when she spoke with me I learned that she is a teacher’s aide in a local school and a single mom with two kids. While she is

happy to have her teaching job, she doesn’t earn enough to keep food on the table and must rely on the food bank and food stamps.

Her story is not unique. Millions of families live each day not knowing if or how they will put food on the table. Rather than thinking about what the next meal will be, parents worry if there will be a next meal. Today, 50 million people have trouble putting food on the table, and 740,000 children live in a food insecure household. Where there is poverty, we see a greater demand for emergency food programs and support. Fortunately, programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—SNAP—Women, Infant, Children—WIC—Program, and school meal programs provide food for hungry children and families. These programs have responded to the growing need by helping low and middle-class families, children, and seniors maintain a healthy diet.

The benefits of SNAP reach far beyond helping households maintain a healthy diet. SNAP is one of the Nation’s most important anti-hunger programs and has provided over 46 million Americans with essential food assistance. In Illinois, more than 1.8 million people rely on SNAP benefits. SNAP has lifted nearly 2.5 million children out of poverty, more than any other government program.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture’s—USDA—Economic Research Service, \$5 of SNAP benefits can generate \$9 in economic activity through retail demand, farm production, and jobs. When millions of Americans are struggling, food stamps meet a basic human need.

This week the Senate will take up the Farm bill, which provides critical funding for food assistance programs, including SNAP. I am concerned about possible amendments to significantly cut the program and fundamentally alter how the program operates. SNAP provides an important safety net for households that have fallen on hard times.

Throughout the country, food banks and pantries that rely on Federal assistance are the front line of the fight against hunger, providing emergency food assistance to hungry families. At a time when millions of middle class Americans are struggling to keep up with higher gas prices, grocery bills, and health care costs, more families are looking to federal programs for assistance. Throughout the country, federal hunger assistance programs have responded to this growing need by providing essential support to hungry families. Over the past 2 years, Illinois food banks have seen a 50 percent increase in requests for food assistance.

As Americans struggle to make ends meet, they rely on food pantries to fill gaps in their grocery needs. The Central Illinois Food Bank is one of many in my State that help to meet that need. Central Illinois Food Bank celebrates its 30th anniversary today. In its

first year, the food bank had one truck and a staff of three and distributed 700,000 pounds of food to 85 agencies. The food bank now serves 150 agencies and distributes 800,000 pounds of food a month. Last year, the food bank helped over 100,000 families and provided well over 1 million pounds of fresh produce. I am grateful to the Central Illinois Food Bank for its work on the front lines of the fight to end hunger and for the safety net it provides for families having trouble putting food on the table.

The millions of Americans who rely on safety net anti-hunger programs may not have the loudest voice in the debate or big public relations firms, but we must protect these programs and work to improve the lives of vulnerable families, children, and seniors at their time of need. Hunger in America is not something we can ignore. At a time when families are working to make ends meet, this isn't the place we should be looking to for cuts. We cannot return to the scenes that Senator Robert Kennedy witnessed decades ago. We should honor his legacy by protecting these programs that help families out food on the table. No family should have to wonder where their next meal will come from.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 484) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 484

Whereas food insecurity and hunger are a fact of life for millions of individuals in the United States and can produce physical, mental, and social impairments;

Whereas recent data published by the Department of Agriculture shows that approximately 48,800,000 individuals in the United States live in households experiencing hunger or food insecurity, and of that number, 32,600,000 are adults and 16,200,000 are children;

Whereas the Department of Agriculture data also shows that households with children experience food insecurity nearly twice as frequently as households without children;

Whereas 4.8 percent of all households in the United States (approximately 5,600,000 households) have accessed emergency food from a food pantry 1 or more times;

Whereas the report entitled "Household Food Security in the United States, 2010", published by the Economic Research Service of the Department of Agriculture, found that in 2010, the most recent year for which data exists—

(1) 14.5 percent of all households in the United States experienced food insecurity at some point during the year;

(2) 20.2 percent of all households with children in the United States experienced food insecurity at some point during the year; and

(3) 7.9 percent of all households with elderly individuals in the United States experienced food insecurity at some point during the year;

Whereas the problem of hunger and food insecurity can be found in rural, suburban, and urban portions of the United States, touching nearly every community in the country;

Whereas, although substantial progress has been made in reducing the incidence of hunger and food insecurity in the United States, many Americans remain vulnerable to hunger and the negative effects of food insecurity;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long tradition of providing food assistance to hungry individuals through acts of private generosity and public support programs;

Whereas the Federal Government provides nutritional support to millions of individuals through numerous Federal food assistance programs, including—

(1) the supplemental nutrition assistance program established under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.);

(2) the child nutrition program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

(3) the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786);

(4) the emergency food assistance program established under the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.); and

(5) food donation programs;

Whereas there is a growing awareness of the important role that community-based organizations, institutions of faith, and charities play in assisting hungry and food-insecure individuals;

Whereas more than 61,000 local, community-based organizations rely on the support and efforts of more than 600,000 volunteers to provide food assistance and services to millions of vulnerable people; and

Whereas all people of the United States can participate in hunger relief efforts in their communities by—

(1) donating food and money to hunger relief efforts;

(2) volunteering for hunger relief efforts; and

(3) supporting public policies aimed at reducing hunger: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 7, 2012, as "National Hunger Awareness Day"; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Hunger Awareness Day—

(A) with appropriate ceremonies, volunteer activities, and other support for anti-hunger advocacy efforts and hunger relief charities, including food banks, food rescue organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters; and

(B) by improving programs and public policies that reduce hunger and food insecurity in the United States.

AUTHORIZING LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 485, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 485) to authorize representation by the Senate Legal Counsel in the case of Common Cause, et al v. Joseph R. Biden, et al.

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

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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 related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 485) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 485

Whereas, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., the Vice President of the United States; Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the Senate; Terrance W. Gainer, Senate Sergeant at Arms; and Elizabeth MacDonough, Senate Parliamentarian, have been named as defendants in the case of Common Cause, et al. v. Joseph R. Biden, et al., No. 1:12cv00775, now pending in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§ 288b(a) and 288c(a)(1), the Senate may direct its counsel to defend officers and employees of the Senate in civil actions relating to their official responsibilities: Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Joseph R. Biden, Jr., the Vice President of the United States; Nancy Erickson, Secretary of the Senate; Terrance W. Gainer, Senate Sergeant at Arms; and Elizabeth MacDonough, Senate Parliamentarian, in the case of Common Cause, et al. v. Joseph R. Biden, et al.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3268 AND S. 3269

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3268) to amend title 49, United States Code, to provide rights for pilots, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 3269) to provide that no United States assistance may be provided to Pakistan until Dr. Shakil Afridi is freed.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I now ask for a second reading and object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the measures will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, June 7, 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 the majority leader be recognized; that the time until