

Dairy Cooperative; Farmer Mac; Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association; Growth Energy; GROWMARK; Holstein Association USA, Inc.; Idaho Dairymen's Association; Irrigation Association; Iowa State Dairy Association; Izaak Walton League of America; Kansas Cooperative Council; Land O'Lakes, Inc.; Land Improvement Contractors of America; Land Trust Alliance; Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Inc.; Michigan Milk Producers Association; Midwest Dairy Coalition Milk Producers Council; Missouri Dairy Association; Montana Stockgrowers Association; National Association of Conservation Districts; National Association of RC&D Councils; National Association of Wheat Growers; National Barley Growers Association; National Cattlemen's Beef Association; National Conservation District Employees Association; National Corn Growers Association; National Cotton Council; National Council of Farmer Cooperatives; National Farmers Union.

National Grape Cooperative Association Inc.; National Milk Producers Federation; National Pork Producers Council; National Sorghum Producers; National Sunflower Association; National Turkey Federation; National Wildlife Federation; Nebraska Cooperative Council; North American Blueberry Council; Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold; Oregon Cherry Growers, Inc.; Oregon Dairy Farmers Association; Pheasants Forever; Plains Cotton Cooperative Association; Public Lands Council; Quails Forever; Select Milk Producers, Inc.; Soil and Water Conservation Society; Soil Science Society of America; South Dakota Wheat Growers; South East Dairy Farmers Association; Southern Peanut Farmers Federation; Southern States; Southwest Council of Agribusiness; Sunkist Growers; Sunsweet Growers Inc.; The Nature Conservancy; The Trust for Public Land; Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership; US Cattlemen's Association; US Canola Association; US Dry Bean Council; USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council; USA Rice Federation; US Rice Producers Association; United Dairymen of Arizona; Valley Fig Growers Virginia State Dairymen's Association; Welch Foods Inc., A Cooperative; Western Growers; Western Peanut Growers Association; Yankee Farm Credit.

Ms. STABENOW. I would ask colleagues once again to come together and vote yes on the 16 million jobs that agriculture and the food industry support. I would ask colleagues to vote yes on major reforms. We have eliminated over 100 authorizations and programs that were duplicative, did not work anymore, and were not the right thing to do from a taxpayer standpoint. We have consolidated in a way that has not been done, I would argue, for decades in this area of policy. We have reduced the deficit by more than the last bill—\$24 billion.

I would ask colleagues to come together to keep this bill moving and to keep agriculture growing our economy and creating jobs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join the distinguished Senator from Michigan in urging the Senate to move forward with this compromise bill that has been developed by the Committee on Agriculture and is now before the Senate for a cloture vote. We need to pass this bill. It provides a framework to help farmers and ranchers in all regions of the country

manage their risks more effectively. It consolidates 23 conservation programs into 13. It contains improvements to nutrition programs. It addresses fraud and abuse. It also reduces the cost of covered programs by \$24 billion.

This bill reflects a real sense of fiscal responsibility but still provides a strong safety net for producers. I thank and congratulate the distinguished Senator from Michigan, the chair of our committee, for her hard work and her strong leadership. She has managed the legislation with skill and a commitment to meet the needs of agriculture producers as well as American consumers.

I urge the Senate to approve the motion to invoke cloture.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, how much time remains prior to the vote?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There are 2 minutes remaining.

(The remarks of Mr. ALEXANDER pertaining to the introduction of S. 1101 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 954, a bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018.

Harry Reid, Debbie Stabenow, Amy Klobuchar, Christopher A. Coons, Sherrod Brown, Tom Harkin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Heidi Heitkamp, Patrick J. Leahy, Michael F. Bennet, Joe Donnelly, Al Franken, Max Baucus, Patty Murray, Tim Johnson, Mark Udall, Jon Tester.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call is waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. 954, a bill to reauthorize agricultural programs through 2018, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 75, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 141 Leg.]

#### YEAS—75

Alexander	Baucus	Blumenthal
Baldwin	Begich	Blunt
Barrasso	Bennet	Boozman

Boxer	Harkin	Murray
Brown	Heinrich	Nelson
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Portman
Cardin	Hirono	Pryor
Carper	Hoeven	Reed
Casey	Isakson	Reid
Chambliss	Johanns	Rockefeller
Cochran	Johnson (SD)	Sanders
Collins	Kaine	Schatz
Coons	King	Schumer
Corker	Kirk	Scott
Cowan	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Donnelly	Landrieu	Stabenow
Durbin	Leahy	Tester
Enzi	Levin	Udall (CO)
Feinstein	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Fischer	Menendez	Vitter
Franken	Merkley	Warner
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Warren
Graham	Moran	Whitehouse
Grassley	Murkowski	Wicker
Hagan	Murphy	Wyden

#### NAYS—22

Ayotte	Heller	Roberts
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Coburn	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Cornyn	Lee	Shelby
Crapo	McCain	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Flake	Paul	
Hatch	Risch	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Coats	McClaskill
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 75, the nays are 22. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Ms. STABENOW. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

#### MOTION TO PROCEED—S. 1003

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Who yields time?

Mr. HARKIN. Parliamentary inquiry: What bill are we on right now?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is under debate time prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 1003.

Mr. HARKIN. As I understand, there is 1 minute on each side?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Two minutes equally divided.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I will claim our first minute, obviously.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the bill before us now, like the House GOP bill, fails the first policy test of do no harm. It is worse for students over the long term than if we even let the rate double. These are CBO projections. If we, again, adopt the next bill which leaves the interest rates at 3.4 percent—that is this sign here—that is what students would pay in interest. If we let it double—this is the white line. If we adopt the Republican bill, as you can see, in 2 years students will be paying more over the next 10 years in interest rates than if we even let it double.

Here is the bottom line on it: If we keep the rates at 3.4 percent, a student

who starts college next year, goes for 4 years, borrows the maximum of \$19,000, will pay \$3,510 in interest over 10 years. That is the life of a Stafford loan. If we adopt the Republicans' bill, that same student borrowing that same amount of money will pay \$6,590 in interest over 10 years. This is the worst possible approach. You shouldn't reduce the deficit on the backs of students who can't even discharge this in bankruptcy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I urge a "yes" vote because this is a permanent solution for 100 percent of the student loans. It reduces rates for every single student's new loan. It has no profit on the student. It fixes the rate for the time of the loan, and it is the same idea as already passed by the House. It is the same idea as supported by the President's budget. There are only minor differences between the President, the House, and this proposal. If we can't agree on this, we can't agree on anything.

This is a manufactured crisis. Their proposal is a short-term political fix for 40 percent of the loans. This proposal is a permanent solution for 100 percent of the loans that would lower rates to below 5 percent; the same idea as in the President's budget, the same idea as passed by the House. I urge a "yes" vote.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1003, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reset interest rates for new student loans.

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Kelly Ayotte, David Vitter, Thad Cochran, Orrin G. Hatch, John Thune, Rob Portman, Lisa Murkowski, Michael B. Enzi, John Barrasso, John McCain, Roger F. Wicker, Roy Blunt, Johnny Isakson, Daniel Coats.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on the motion to proceed to S. 1003, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to reset interest rates for new student loans, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. McCASKILL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. COATS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 40, nays 57, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 142 Leg.]

#### YEAS—40

Alexander	Enzi	McConnell
Ayotte	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Flake	Murkowski
Blunt	Graham	Portman
Boozman	Grassley	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Rubio
Carper	Heller	Scott
Chambliss	Hoeven	Sessions
Coburn	Inhofe	Shelby
Cochran	Isakson	Thune
Collins	Johanns	Vitter
Corker	Johnson (WI)	Wicker
Cornyn	Kirk	
Cruz	McCain	

#### NAYS—57

Baldwin	Harkin	Paul
Baucus	Heinrich	Pryor
Begich	Heitkamp	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Reid
Blumenthal	Johnson (SD)	Risch
Boxer	Kaine	Rockefeller
Brown	King	Sanders
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schatz
Cardin	Landrieu	Schumer
Casey	Leahy	Shaheen
Cooms	Lee	Stabenow
Cowan	Levin	Tester
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Donnelly	Menendez	Udall (CO)
Durbin	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Feinstein	Mikulski	Warner
Franken	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Hagan	Nelson	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—2

Coats McCaskill

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 40, the nays are 57. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

#### MOTION TO PROCEED—S. 953

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Who yields time? The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, in 1992 the Congress created the Direct Loan Program. When this program was originated, the loans to students were at variable rates. Let me say to my colleagues this morning, Congress now sets the rates. We changed that in 2006.

The bill you will talk about now—let me just pose this to you: If you believe it is appropriate for Congress to pick winners and losers, then support this bill. If you believe it is appropriate for Congress to subsidize 40 percent of the student loan population and overcharge the other 60 percent of the student loan population, then vote for this bill. If you believe that is not the congressional role and that we need a long-term, permanent, transparent, predictable solution, then vote against this bill and let's sit down between now and July 1 and write a bipartisan approach that solves this problem once and for all.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, today the Senate will have a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 953, the Student Loan Affordability Act, continuing a disturbing pattern when it comes to the consideration and proc-

essing of legislation under the jurisdiction of the Senate Finance Committee, of which I am the ranking member.

This legislation contains revenue-raising measures that should be considered in the Finance Committee before coming to the floor. Yet, once again, the Senate Democratic leadership has opted to bypass the committee by way of Senate rule XIV.

If the majority leader succeeds in proceeding to S. 953, I plan to offer a motion to commit the bill to the Finance Committee.

There is bipartisan support for reforming tax incentives for education. If the opportunity arises, my motion could be crafted in such a way to focus the Finance Committee's efforts on reforming these incentives in short order. Millions of American families and students would be well-served by such reforms.

In any event, any legislation addressing these incentives should be considered through regular order, which means full and fair consideration in the Senate Finance Committee. I intend to work to make sure that takes place.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, On July 1, the interest rates will double for the most vulnerable students in our society. Access to college, which is fundamental to our growth, our prosperity, and individual advancement will be compromised for 7 million low- and moderate income students in this country.

Republicans have a long-term proposal, but they do not have a long-term solution because it is not just about interest rates, it is about college costs. It is about refinancing the huge amount of debt that families have today—not just families but students—debt they may never be able to pay off. First, we need the time to work on a long-term solution; but, second, we need to reassure vulnerable individuals and families that their rates will not double. Student debt today is the second largest debt for American households. We cannot let it go any further. Their proposal not only will not solve the problem because it doesn't deal with all aspects, but it will increase student debt for borrowers with financial need on July 1.

Instead, I urge passage of our proposal, the Student Loan Affordability Act.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 74, S. 953, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to