

know now. I believe the time is now to try to come to a resolution that meets everybody's requirements, and we are not that far apart. The differences separating us in this body are not that far apart. I believe we have an opportunity not only to solve this problem fairly to our students but to demonstrate to the country that we are able to make decisions and not simply delay them for another 1 or 2 years.

That is why I rise to support the bill that Senator MANCHIN and I, as well as others, including Senator BURR, Senator ALEXANDER—who I think is one of the most respected Members of this body, particularly on education matters—and Senator COBURN. We have a strong bill. I think as people see the details, understand it better, understand the terms, and understand the effects, we will save students in America over the next 3 or 4 years something like \$50 billion. If we don't resolve this problem, it will come into the Treasury on the backs of our students. I don't think that is a result we want.

I think we have a responsible proposal. It is a bipartisan one, and I believe it deserves full and fair consideration. I am sure all of these proposals will have a lot of discussion once we are back in session a week and a half from now, and I hope we can come to a resolution because the students of America deserve to know two things: that Congress has their back on student loans and that their Congress is, in fact, able to make decisions, handle issues, and move forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I see that the Senator from New York and the Senator from Colorado are on the floor. I don't know if they seek recognition. I know this has been a terrific day for them as two of the principal architects of the immigration bill we just passed. It has been a landmark achievement.

I am prepared to speak for about 15 minutes on my climate bill, so I am going to be here for a while. If the Senator from New York would prefer to proceed, then I will allow him to proceed. That will also allow me to relieve the Presiding Officer who I understand needs to go upstairs for a moment.

I will yield to Senator SCHUMER with the hope that upon the conclusion of his remarks, I will be recognized.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague from Rhode Island. As usual, he is graceful and thoughtful as well as being an outstanding legislator with a great deal of passion. I know he wants to speak on the issue he is ready to speak about, but, again, his grace and kindness are always present and I appreciate it.

I return to the floor to just say some words of thanks. We had limited time before, so I wanted to speak to the issue. I wish to thank some people.

First I thought I would mention how much a dream this comprehensive bill has been to so many people. At the top of the list, of course, is Ted Kennedy, who was one of the greatest human beings I ever met in my life. He had the immigration subcommittee before me. This wouldn't have happened without his guidance and leadership.

Did we make changes from what he did? Obviously. But did his basic feeling, structure, and knowledge that it had to be bipartisan all carry forward on this bill? Absolutely. We know Ted is smiling as he is looking down on us today. We know he will continue to inspire not only those of us in the Senate but also the country as we move forward.

I wanted to spend a few minutes—and I very much appreciate my colleague from Rhode Island for yielding—to thank my staff. We are lucky to have the leadership of Mike Lynch, our chief of staff. We are a team, and it is an amazing team. Everyone covers each other and everyone looks out for each other.

Sometimes when I am upset and I say: Who did what, nobody did anything wrong. They are all watching each other's back. That is the lesson Lynch has taught all of them, and it is a great lesson. We are close-knit. We socialize. We have fun. They truly like each other. This certainly would not have happened without them.

Before I talk about my staff, I wish to praise each of my colleagues. I have done that repeatedly on the Gang of 8. I mentioned this outside, but I want to mention it on the floor. I can say exactly the same thing for each of the eight in the gang: It would not have happened without their presence. It was an amazing team. Each contributed something in his own way. Each contributed a great deal in his own way, and at impassable different people rose to the floor and lifted us out of those impassable. It was an amazing group.

I am not going to get into each individual right now, but I do want to thank the Gang of 8. We have bonded, we have become friends, and we have accomplished something that will hopefully carry forward and become law.

Now I wish to thank my staff. My staff, similar to all Americans, are the children or great-grandchildren or great-great-great-great-grandchildren of immigrants. They have shared their stories through this process. I know this was deeply personal for each of them. Every week just about the entire staff got together for an immigration meeting, and everybody contributed.

So I wish to take some time to thank them all. They worked so hard to fix this system. It was not only a dream of so many in this Senate, it was a dream of theirs. One thing is for sure, without them, we wouldn't be here.

In fact, I think everyone in the Gang of 8 grew to respect our staff just as we

respected their staffs. That is another great thing that happened, the bonding.

I want to mention some of the individuals. First, my chief counsel, Stephanie Martz. She poured her whole heart and soul into the bill. She has young kids who have soccer games. She has a very busy schedule, but for this bill she missed bedtimes due to late-night meetings or conference calls. How many times on a Saturday did I talk to her when she was at some athletic event for one of her kids. I could hear the cheering and the running up and down in the background.

But Stephanie has a unique ability to help build coalitions. When one group or another was upset—and believe me, that probably happened every 5 minutes in this legislation—there was Stephanie, soothing them, calming them but telling them the truth, so they trusted her. She was an indispensable part of our ability to get this done.

Through the rough patches, she never gave up on our team. I know that Kyle, Nora, and Pip are going to be happy to have mommy back, and maybe there will be another ice hockey tournament in Rochester next year when whatever legislation we are working on then rises to the fore. To the great genius—and I started referring to him at our meetings as my immigration genius—and he was. The intellectual force, the creative force who propelled this effort was one Leon Fresco, the son of Cuban immigrants from Miami. I think it was about 5 years ago he took this job. He was a very successful immigration lawyer, but he took this job because he wanted to do immigration reform. He has worked on many other things. His creativity has shown its mark in "Schumerland" on so many different issues, but this was his dream, and he put every atom of his body into this.

Like me, he is voluble. During our staff meetings we would yell at each other, and it became a joke because I once said: Shut up, Leon. So JOHN MCCAIN greeted him at each meeting: Shut up, Leon. And we all loved it. But Leon, your fierce determination, your innate intelligence, your deep love of this country, is great. And thanks to Mama Fresco, Leon's mom, who is so proud of her son. It was great to meet your parents who are immigrants, who are the American dream.

The people I spoke about on the floor a few minutes ago are embodied in the Frescos. How about Sofie, Leon's wife. Sofie got pregnant during all of this, so he wasn't devoting 100 percent of his time to immigration reform, but close to it. And there she was, Sofie, indomitable and quiet, doing the job.

Our legislative team is a great team—and everyone pitched in to do immigration—led by Heather McHugh. Heather's advice and counsel were invaluable. She communicated with our colleagues. Each one of our staff has great attributes. Heather is always wary of me going a little too far, a little too fast, or a little too quick, and

she will come into the office and say: You know, you better think about this. Then I know I have trouble. But, again, she is incredible.

Because immigration is so multifaceted, all of our staff contributed, including Meghan Taira, whom I consider—no offense to all my colleagues—the best health L.A. on the Hill. She helped create the ACA. But, of course, there were many benefit issues that occurred, and there was Meghan.

Anna Taylor, the only person on our staff with a deep southern Arkansas accent, came from Blanche Lincoln's staff. There were tax issues and there she was, solving them all.

John Jones was incredible. He stepped up and handled many issues. Dan Rudofsky and Veronica Duron drafted summaries and talking points and spreadsheets.

When things got tough, Becca Kelly and Erin Vaughn, each the mother of children less than 1, let nothing get in the way of doing this while at the same time maintaining focus on their kids and the bill.

It might surprise the Presiding Officer to know that I have a very good press team. Brian Fallon, Matt House, Max Young, Meredith Kelly, Lindsay Dryzak, Marisa Kaufman, and Josh Molofsky learned the substance of immigration and spun it into a beautiful web the public could understand.

Our DPCC team, led by Ryan McConaghy, kept policy and press teams singing off the same praise sheet, keeping our caucus up to date.

Then, of course, as every one of us, we have great administrative staffers. Al Victor, who came to the office as a young kid from Long Island, as a young helper in the Long Island office, is now my unflappable executive assistant. No matter how tough and tense things get in our office—and they do—she is just as steady as a rock, getting things done. She and her colleagues, Megan Runyan, Alice James, Jessica Bonfiglio, Kristin Mollet, Rob Kelly, Ellen Cahill, Claire Reuschel all kept us administratively going.

I mentioned the Members. They are great. I have so much to say about each of them. I want to thank Chairman LEAHY, who is probably on his way back to his beautiful farm in Vermont, for shepherding this bill through the Judiciary Committee. Everyone has praised his open and inclusive process. It is well known.

I want to thank Bruce Cohen. This is the capstone of his career. We all know how important he is to the Judiciary Committee. His big shoes were ably and elegantly filled by Kristine Lucius as chief counsel. But J.P. Dowd and Matt Virkstis, John Amaya, Lara Flint, Alex Givens, Chris Leopold, and Anya McMurray all did a great job.

As most people know around here, HARRY REID is one of my best friends in the world, and his unwavering support and confidence that we could get this done was essential. He had the great staff who lent constant help to us:

David Krone, Bill Dauster, Serena Hoy, Kate Leone, Bruce King, and Angela Arboleda all did a great job.

The staffs of the other Members, I wish to mention a few of them also. I hope they are listening: Kerri Talbot, Darissa Wilhite, and Molly Groom of Senator MENENDEZ's staff; Joe Zogby, Mara Silver, and Vaishalee Yeldandi with Senator DURBIN; Jonathon Davidson and Sergio Gonzales who work with Senator BENNET. So many staffers.

As I said, we got to know each other very well, through all the meetings. We had a lot of disagreements and tough arguments. We all stuck together. And Senator FEINSTEIN's team—Senator FEINSTEIN put that agriculture section together. Amazing. The growers and the farm workers are for this bill. That is because of the great leadership of Senator FEINSTEIN. Chris Thompson, Neil Quinter, and Kim Alton all did a great job there.

We worked as closely in this endeavor with the Republican staffs as well as the Democratic staffs, and I owe them a great deal of thanks: Cesar Conda, Sally Canfield, Enrique Gonzalez—let me pay him a compliment. He was sort of the equivalent—not quite, in my opinion, but close to the equivalent—of Leon Fresco on the Republican side. Also, John Baselice, Senator RUBIO's staff; Mark Delich and Katherine Zill with Senator MCCAIN; Matt Rinkunas, Sergio Sarkany, and David Glaccum with Senator GRAHAM.

When we had our meetings, all of these staffers were there.

Chandler Morse, at first he was giving Senator FLAKE some tough advice, and just as Senator MCCAIN would talk about Leon, I would talk about Chandler. I now owe him a dinner.

I said: Chandler, I am taking you out to dinner if this bill passes the Senate. Pick your restaurant. Don't make it too expensive.

And Elizabeth Taylor, who also works with Senator FLAKE. Then the great floor staff: Gary Myrick and Tim and Trish and Meredith and Tequia, Dan, Brad, Stephanie—they run the place like clockwork, as recently as today when there were more requests for time and people had to go home at 4 o'clock.

Emma Fulkerson of Senator MURRAY's staff; Reema and MJ on Senator DURBIN's staff who did a great job, and, frankly, Dave Schiappa and the Republican floor staff as well.

We got a lot of help from the Senate appropriations, finance, and budget committees, and I thank them.

I also want to thank the rest of my staff in New York and in DC. They are the wind beneath our wings. If we didn't feel good and safe in New York, we couldn't take the risks we do here in Washington, and they make that possible. So I thank them all.

Finally, Leon, always making sure everything goes exactly right. So I want to thank the legislative counsel staff who worked 24/7 to turn these legislative ideas into the 1,000-page bill, as

has been remarked about over and over, and it needed that many pages because it was so complicated. But they did a great job as well.

So, once again, to my staff, from Mike Lynch all the way through, I think, as every Member probably thinks, I have the best staff on the Hill. It is certainly the best staff I have ever had in 39 years as a legislator. Without them, we couldn't do it.

So tonight we are going to celebrate the going away and the ascension of one of our old-time staffers, and we will all have a great time together. But I am blessed. I am blessed to have a family, my wife and daughters who put up with me through thick and thin. I am blessed to have two other families, my Senate colleagues, who I do regard as my family, and my staff, who I also regard as my family. So though I am not Irish, I have a big, big, big family, and they are the greatest, all three.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor. I thank the Senator from Rhode Island for his graciousness.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I believe under the pending order I have the floor, but I wish to yield to the Senator from Illinois for a few minutes. Then I ask to be recognized at the conclusion of his remarks.

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Rhode Island, and I thank the Presiding Officer. I wish to join my colleague, Senator SCHUMER, first thanking him for his leadership and bringing us together. With Senator MCCAIN, they led the eight-Senator effort to put together this comprehensive immigration bill which was enacted by the Senate today by a vote of 68 to 32. Many thanks go around.

I have acknowledged the other Senators who are part of that gang, but I wanted to give special recognition to four of my staffers who worked overtime and did an extraordinary effort to put this bill together: First and foremost, Joe Zogby, my chief counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee. He was there at the creation of the DREAM Act, and he has been with me ever since, some 12 years of dedicated effort to pass this legislation on the floor of the Senate, and we did it today. It never would have happened if Joe hadn't devoted so much energy and talent into making this day possible. I also will tell my colleagues that his name is well known among those who are DREAMers. So many times Joe has saved them from deportation when they were just minutes or days away from that happening. He has a heart of gold and a great mind, and I am lucky to have him.

Mara Silver, an extraordinary lawyer who took on aspects of this bill that were tough, including refugee and asylee sections that have virtually no constituency. There are sections of the

law that affect some of the most downtrodden people on Earth who face oppression in other countries. She came to it with the heart of a lion and came through with some provisions that will give many of these asylees and refugees their chance to prove they need help and deserve help in the United States.

And Vaishalee Yeldandi and Stephanie Trifone, who sat through meeting after weary meeting putting together the provisions we needed to work out. I can't say enough for the staff people when they do this type of Olympic and heroic effort, as under this comprehensive immigration reform. I am fortunate to have an exceptional staff both in the State and back in Washington.

Those four deserve special recognition today for the extraordinary job they did.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I hate to interrupt the Senator. Would the Senator be willing to yield for 2 minutes so I can thank some people on the immigration bill? I promise I will take no more than 2 minutes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, let me respond to the distinguished Senator. The answer is yes. I also see our distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee and his ranking member on the floor. I understand they have a colloquy they wish to engage in. Do they have an estimate as to how long they wish to engage in that colloquy?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, might I ask the Senator from Rhode Island how much time he wishes to speak?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I have about 15 minutes. What I propose to do—I do not know how long the Senators wish to take. What I propose to do is yield to Senator GRAHAM for such time as he may need.

Mr. GRAHAM. Two minutes.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. And then—

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I am fine. I think we should wait, let the Senator from Rhode Island proceed with his statement, and if the Senator from South Carolina wants to go ahead—

Mr. GRAHAM. OK. That is fine.

Mr. BAUCUS. Whatever the two Senators work out, great.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I yield the floor to Senator GRAHAM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, to all my Senate colleagues, today was a good day, a historic day for the Senate. Thank you all, whether you opposed or supported the bill. It was a great debate.

To the staff, this bill could have died a thousand times. You would not let it.

To Matt Rimkunas, you are awesome. Sergio Sarkany and David

Glaccum of my staff, thank you for endless hours of work below minimum wage.

Mark Delich, in Senator McCain's office, thank you for working for Senator McCain. Your reward will be in Heaven.

Chandler Morse, you are awesome working for Senator Jeff Flake.

Enrique Gonzalez, you are one of the smartest people I have ever met. Jon Baseliace, Senator Marco Rubio was a game changer.

Leon Fresco was the star of the show. Stephanie Martz, you kept Leon and Senator Schumer from killing each other. Well done.

Joe Zogby, thank you for being a strong voice.

Kerri Talbot, for Senator Bob Menendez, you always reminded us we are dealing with people.

And to Sergio Gonzalez, in Senator Michael Bennet's office, you all were an incredible calming force.

To Senator Hatch, you came into the debate at a time when we needed a lift. Orrin Hatch, I want to thank you profusely for jumping into the debate, adding to the momentum that was created by the so-called Gang of 8. You provided momentum in committee. It meant a lot.

To Kelly Ayotte, you jumped on board at a time when people were talking about what was bad with the bill. You came out to give us a No. 5, along with Senator Hatch, to give it momentum. That was an act of tremendous political courage and you did the country a service by standing up and standing out at a time when it was tough.

To Senators Hoeven and Corker, you put us over the top. I have never enjoyed working with two people more. But Senator Bob Corker and Senator John Hoeven, your efforts to come up with a new amendment, along with Senator Hatch and Senator Ayotte, really made the difference.

I wanted to recognize these people—that they came along at a time when America needed them—and this bill is the result of the hard work of many people at the staff level, but key Senators who were not in the original bipartisan group came to the aid of the cause at a time we needed it.

I will yield.

Thank you very much for allowing me to say these words.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. Hatch. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from South Carolina for his kind remarks. He is right, a lot of these folks came to the forefront on this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. Whitehouse. Mr. President, let me also congratulate our friend Senator Graham for his extraordinary leadership.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. Whitehouse. Mr. President, it has been an extraordinary day in the

Senate. It shows the kind of progress that can be made even on bedeviling issues when persistence and optimism are brought to bear. I hope my continued efforts on climate change will ultimately produce, with the same persistence and optimism, the same success we have seen today on immigration.

This is the 37th time that I will have come to the floor to urge my colleagues to wake up to the threats we face from climate change, to wake up and stop hiding behind the distortions that are spread by the fossil fuel interests, and to start heeding the warnings of scientists, of economists, of insurers, of businesses, of national security officials, of religious leaders. They all say something needs to be done, and fast, to stave off the harm of carbon pollution.

For the first time in this speech, I can say that something at last is being done. This Tuesday President Obama laid out a national plan to reduce carbon pollution and to prepare our country for the effects of climate change. His plan is a bold one, and it is going to challenge the status quo. Most importantly, the administration will regulate greenhouse gas emissions from new and existing powerplants. If we are going to be serious, we need to strike at the heart of the problem, and regulating these big powerplants is the best first step.

And let's face it, until now these big polluters were getting a free ride. They were harming all of us with their emissions and paying no price for it.

Carbon-driven climate change hurts our economy, damages our infrastructure, and harms our public health. Economists call this price we all pay the "social cost of carbon" because it represents the cost that polluting corporations offload onto the rest of us, onto the rest of society.

Earlier this month the Obama administration revised its estimate of the social cost of carbon to \$36 per ton of carbon dioxide emitted. This new estimate better captures the true harm of carbon pollution to our oceans, to our farmland, to ourselves, and I commend the President for strengthening our economic assessment of climate change.

The administration's measure still falls short of some experts' calculations, however, such as the comprehensive review that prompted far-reaching climate change legislation in the United Kingdom. I think our estimate should be still higher to accurately reflect the costs of climate change, and I think the best way to address the mounting social cost of carbon is a carbon fee.

If we start charging these corporations a fee, based on the social cost of their carbon pollution, that will factor those costs into their business models, and that is economics 101.

A carbon fee, in other words, makes the market work properly by putting the costs of carbon pollution into the price of the product, instead of letting