the poverty line. They know they can not survive on such meager wages. They know it because they live it.

Unfortunately, the McDonald's corporation does not seem to understand. Last week, a budgeting brochure that McDonald's provides its workers went viral on the Internet. It seems that, as the folks at The Atlantic said, "McDonald's can't figure out how its workers survive on minimum wage." Let's talk about McDonald's.

McDonald's is the third-largest employer of low-wage workers in the country, with 860,000 U.S. workers. According to Glassdoor, the average wage for a cashier is $7.72 and for a crew member is $7.68. That is just pennies above the minimum. Even managers only make around $9.50 per hour, sometimes less.

The McDonald's budget brochure shows workers how to add up their monthly expenses to determine their monthly household budget. But wages at McDonald's are so paltry that its sample budget had to assume that its employees work two full-time jobs to earn $2,000 a month. Never mind that most fast food jobs are part-time, and finding two jobs would be very difficult in today's economy with so many unemployed and part-time workers looking for full-time jobs.

On top of requiring two jobs, this budget's estimated costs are either out of sync with reality or simply missing. It estimated rent at $600 a month, when in reality rent costs $783 for a one-bedroom apartment and $977 for a two-bedroom, according to the National Low-Income Housing Coalition. Those are national figures; rent is much higher in many parts of the country. The McDonald's budget also doesn't include necessities like child care or food. And I don't know where someone is going to get health insurance for $20 a month. Even McDonald's charges $54 a month for its most basic plan for one employee with no dependents, and that is after a year of working there. With just one dependent, it is $140 a month. And that basic plan still has deductibles and copays on top of the premium.

This just shows how difficult it is for tens of millions of people—folks who do some of the most demanding work in our country—to make ends meet. But it's not just low-wage workers who are hurt when they can't keep up with costs. This hurts our communities and our local businesses as well. When our neighbors can't afford to go to the grocery store or the auto repair shop or the hardware store, all of those businesses suffer. They lose customers and sales.

But imagine if the lowest wage workers all got raises. They would take their car in for that long-needed repair. They would pick up a few extra items at the store. They would buy a new pair of shoes for their growing son or daughter. And those local stores would all benefit.

And when we see that 30 million people across the country will get a raise thanks to the Fair Minimum Wage Act, all that extra spending really adds up. The local grocery might even have to hire new people to keep up with rising demand. In total, my bill will add $33 billion to our GDP over its 3 years of implementation. And it will create 140,000 new jobs over that same period.

It's simple: more money in consumers' pockets means more spending, which means more economic activity, which means more jobs.

In fact, the financial and economic experts know this already. I have seen article after article, interview after interview from financial experts saying that we need more consumer spending in order to get our economy really going. Just last month, the Wall Street Journal interviewed the president of Naroff Economic Advisors. He analyzed a recent consumer spending report and said, "We're in a situation where we need much stronger increases in wages and salaries if households are going to have the money to spend and the economy's going to grow faster." He added:

> We need wages to grow significantly faster. They're coming up from where they have been, but we need them to really begin to pick up. We need stronger job growth, but more importantly we also need average salaries and hourly wages to grow faster. Those have been largely flat and that's the problem. Right now, income's growing because we're creating more jobs, not because people are making more money. We need the average person to see their salaries go up before they can spend more and drive this economy forward.

Well, we can raise wages in this country, and we can provide those raises to the people who need it most—not to CEOs but to the people serving our food, watching our children, helping us when we call customer service, and assisting us at our local stores. These are the people who are earning wages so low, they work two jobs and still can't make ends meet. And these are people who will go out and spend just about every dime in their local stores, boosting their local economies.

Minimum wage workers want to support themselves. Ninety percent of the people who would benefit from my legislation are adults, not teenagers. They are often parents. In fact, one in five working parents in this country will get a raise under my bill, and a third of single parents. A total of 18 million children have parents who would get a raise. Think about that. All of those millions of families with a little more money to spend. What a help that will be to those growing kids.

We owe it to millions of low-wage families struggling to just have a glimpse of the American Dream, to make sure that they get a raise and can support their families. But we also owe it to ourselves, to our economy. Our system works best when everyone has the opportunity to support themselves, to be productive, and to participate in our larger economy.

Raising the minimum wage is a simple and effective way to do this. And we know we can do it in a responsible way, with no unintended consequences. My bill would phase in an increase in three steps, giving businesses time to adapt. And because the minimum wage will apply to all businesses, no single business will be at a competitive disadvantage.

Also, my proposal is in line percentage wise with previous increases in the minimum wage. Decades of solid economic research shows us that these increases have not caused job losses. In fact, businesses stand to benefit from increased wages, because raises result in significantly lower turnover rates, which in turn saves those businesses money.

Four years without a raise is 3 years too many. We have to make sure that working families can keep up with the economy. That is why linking future increases in the minimum wage to the cost of living is so crucial. Small annual increases will be easy to absorb, but will make a big difference to American families. And it will help our businesses on Main Street as well as our national economy.

Mr. President, it is time to raise the minimum wage and link it to inflation for the future. It is the right thing to do, and it is the responsible thing to do. And it will give a much needed boost to both local economies and our national economy. I urge my colleagues to support this long-overdue legislation.

TRIBUTE TO FRANK J. SAMMARTINO

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise along with my colleague, the Ranking Member of the Budget Committee, Senator SESSIONS, to pay tribute to Frank J. Sammartino, who is retiring this week after 33 years of distinguished Federal service, including 26 years serving the Congress at the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Economic Committee.

Mr. Sammartino began his Federal career in 1978, working in the office of the assistant secretary for planning and evaluation at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where he worked until 1985. He left HHS for the Tax Analysis Division in the Congressional Budget Office, where he has worked for most of his remaining career. While at CBO, Mr. Sammartino has risen up through the ranks to his current position of assistant director for Tax Analysis, the director's top person on all tax policy and budget matters. In addition to his work at CBO, he has also served Congress as the chief economist and deputy director at the Joint Economic Committee.

As head of the Tax Analysis Division at CBO, Mr. Sammartino has worked tirelessly to ensure the Congress has quality and timely analysis of tax policy and budget issues. He has directly contributed to and overseen numerous baseline projections, policy studies, and cost estimates. In fact, early on at

CBO, he developed the first microsimulation model used by CBO for analyzing tax policy. That model became the basis for CBO's individual income tax projections and its analysis of the distribution of federal taxes. In general, his expertise on a wide range of public policy issues has served as a valuable resource for Members and staff.

Mr. Sammartino exemplifies CBO's high standards of professionalism, objectivity, and nonpartisanship, and has received the highest awards for outstanding service while at both CBO and HHS. As chairman, I greatly appreciate the sacrifices that he—as well as his family, including his wife, Ellen, and children, Frank and Lulu—have made in assisting the Budget Committee and Congress.

I would like to turn to my colleague, Senator SESSIONS, for his remarks.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the chairman and join her in commending Mr. Sammartino for his many years of dedicated and distinguished service to CBO, the Congress, and the American people. We wish him and his family well in his retirement from Federal service.

We hope our colleagues will join us in thanking Mr. Sammartino—and really all of the hard-working employees at the Congressional Budget Office—for his and their service.

ENERGY SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee Assignments of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ENERGY

Al Franken, *Chairman*

Tim Johnson, Mary L. Landrieu, Maria Cantwell, Bernard Sanders, Debbie Stabenow, Mark Udall, Joe Manchin, III, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin.

James E. Risch, *Ranking*, Dean Heller, Jeff Flake, Lamar Alexander, Rob Portman, John Hoeven.

PUBLIC LANDS, FORESTS, AND MINING

Joe Manchin, III, *Chairman*

Tim Johnson, Mary L. Landrieu, Maria Cantwell, Mark Udall, Al Franken, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin.

John Barrasso, *Ranking*, James E. Risch, Mike Lee, Dean Heller, Jeff Flake, Tim Scott, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven.

NATIONAL PARKS

Mark Udall, Chairman

Mary L. Landrieu, Bernard Sanders, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Tammy Baldwin.

Rob Portman, *Ranking*, John Barrasso, Mike Lee, Lamar Alexander, John Hoeven.

WATER AND POWER

Brian Schatz, *Chairman*

Tim Johnson, Maria Cantwell, Bernard Sanders, Debbie Stabenow, Joe Manchin, III, Al Franken.

Mike Lee, *Ranking*, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, Dean Heller, Jeff Flake, Tim Scott.

Ron Wyden and Lisa Murkowski are ex officio members of all the Subcommittees.

TRIBUTE TO TOM ED McHUGH

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tom Ed McHugh, who will retire as executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association. Mr. McHugh will step down on December 31, 2013, after 13 years of dedicated service.

Mr. McHugh began his career in public service in 1966 as a teacher in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System after receiving a Bachelor's degree in education from Louisiana State University. In 1989, Mr. McHugh was elected mayor-president of the City of Baton Rouge and Parish of East Baton Rouge and served three terms in this position. Under his leadership, East Baton Rouge Parish experienced its greatest years of growth and prosperity. Through his years of service as an elected official, Mr. McHugh created enduring changes in a wide breadth of programs to impact and improve the lives of every individual within and throughout his community.

Mr. McHugh has worked tirelessly for 13 years as executive director of the Louisiana Municipal Association to maintain and promote the independence and self-sufficiency of Louisiana's municipalities while strengthening the relationship between the local, State, and Federal levels of government. He created municipal structures in which all people are taken care of, no matter their situation in life. Mr. McHugh had a vision to reach the lives of the citizens he vigorously worked to improve through dynamic enhancement models that provided quality management and services at all levels of government. Mr. McHugh also worked continuously to build a strong economic agenda to ensure the prosperity of Louisiana's municipalities and communities for generations to come.

Mr. McHugh's distinguished career includes many prestigious recognitions. Among them are memberships to the United States Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and the governing boards of the Louisiana Conference of Mayors and the Louisiana Municipal Association. Mr. McHugh's career leaves a legacy of accomplishment and dedication to his family and all those who are a part of the educational systems and municipalities that he served. Together with his high school sweetheart, Betty Schilling McHugh, Mr. and Mrs. McHugh are the proud parents and grandparents of three children and eight grandchildren, all of whom have continued to inspire Mr. McHugh as a professional, a father, and a grandfather.

Mr. McHugh has been and continues to be an inspiration to all of those who have been impacted by his tireless efforts. It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me along with Mr. McHugh's family in recognizing the life and many accomplishments of this incredible leader and his impact in so many communities.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 6:48 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5. An act to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 5. An act to support State and local accountability for public education, protect State and local authority, inform parents of the performance of their children's schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following measure was discharged from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and referred as indicated:

S. 1294. A bill to designate as wilderness certain public land in the Cherokee National Forest in the State of Tennessee, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2668. To delay the application of the individual health insurance mandate, to delay the application of the employer health insurance mandate, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–2374. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Importation of Fresh Citrus Fruit From Uruguay, Including Citrus Hybrids and Fortunella spp.,