

so-called Affordable Care Act's mandates and regulations.

According to a recent analysis by the American Enterprise Institute, as many as 50 to 100 million insurance policies in the employer-provided insurance market will see their plans canceled next fall when all business plans must be fully compliant with ObamaCare's insurance mandates. At that point businesses will have to face a difficult choice: Offer a more expensive health care plan to their employees or send employees into the exchanges. As we have already seen, that is not a great place to be.

No. 5, health insurers will either leave the market or face bankruptcy. One of the foundational assumptions made by the drafters of the Affordable Care Act was that the costs to insurers of providing vastly expanded coverage would be offset when more young and healthy patients are brought into the risk pools. Indeed, this is almost the entire basis for the individual mandate. The problem is that so far this doesn't seem to be happening, and I doubt it ever will. There is good reason to question whether it ever will. With the ever-increasing cost of insurance as a direct result of ObamaCare, there will likely be many who opt to stay out of the market altogether.

There is ample data right now to support this conclusion. For example, in a poll released earlier this month from the Harvard Institute of Politics, those in the millennial generation—the very people whom proponents of ObamaCare desperately need to add to the insurance pool—were shown to be highly skeptical of the law. In the poll, a majority of 18- to 29-year-olds disapproved of the Affordable Care Act and said it will increase their personal health care costs. Only 18 percent of respondents in that age group said they thought the law would improve their health care.

Clearly, the authors of ObamaCare thought that the individual mandate, along with the strong sense of civic duty, would coerce people into acting against their own interests and paying expanded costs for coverage they don't necessarily want or need; however, in the real world where people weigh costs and benefits before making a decision, millions of people are more likely to pay a fine instead of entering a skewed and unstable insurance market where costs are forever going up. A lot of these young people will not even pay the fine because there is no penalty for not doing so.

Without a greatly expanded risk pool of younger and healthier consumers, it is not going to be worth it for many insurers to stay in the market. Those insurers who do stay and try to stick it out will do so at greater risk to their financial future.

Insurers are not the only ones facing a dismal economic outlook as a result of ObamaCare, which brings me to my final prediction. Remember, I am just limiting it to six today. I will have more later.

No. 6, ObamaCare will continue to be a drag on business and our overall economy. It isn't just patients and consumers who are suffering under ObamaCare; employers are also facing difficulties as a direct result of ObamaCare. As I have discussed here on the floor at length in anticipation of the employer mandate, businesses all across the country have either reduced employment or have stopped hiring. Workers who had full-time jobs before the passage of ObamaCare are finding themselves moved into part-time work because under the law employers will be forced to provide coverage for full-time workers.

Even the unions, which were among the largest and biggest supporters of the health law when it was being debated in Congress, have come out and said the law is destroying the 40-hour workweek for American workers.

Last week the National Association of Manufacturers released its quarterly survey of its members which showed overwhelmingly that the President's health care law is having a negative impact on the manufacturing sector. According to that survey, more than 20 percent of manufacturers have cut or decelerated their business investment as a result of ObamaCare. Nearly one-quarter of them have either reduced employment or ceased hiring. Roughly one-third of them say they have reduced their business outlook for 2014 as a result of the so-called Affordable Care Act. And more than 77 percent—nearly 8 in 10—of manufacturers cited rising health insurance costs as a primary business challenge.

In other words, at a time when our economy is growing at a sluggish pace and job growth remains lackluster, the President and Democrats in Congress continue to support a health care law that is making America a much more difficult place to do business and to find and keep a job. It is only going to get worse as this wears on. These are just some of the problems we are going to see in the coming months as a direct result of ObamaCare, and they are not going to go away so long as the Affordable Care Act remains in place.

As I see it, with 2013 coming to a close, the President and his allies here in Congress are at a crossroads. As I see it, they have two choices: They can continue to double down on the same failed policy that is increasing the cost of health insurance in this country and causing millions of people to lose their existing coverage and will continue to wreak havoc well into the future or they can, for once, try to work with Republicans on replacing this failure with something that has a real chance of success. I hope that eventually my colleagues will choose the latter, but needless to say I don't think I can keep my hopes up.

Last but not least, I hope this is not leading to a throwing of the hands in the air, admitting this doesn't work, and then saying we have to go to so-called specialized medicine, or what many call a

single-payer system. If we do that, I have to tell you, we will never get out from under this mess.

We had a system that was working pretty well. There were up to 30 million people who did not have coverage. Why didn't we just concentrate governmentally on helping the 30 million people rather than doing this colossally bad bill that we are all going to rue the day we did? I am so concerned about it.

There are ways we can work together. I really believe we have to find some folks on the other side of the aisle who really understand this and who really understand that they are getting killed by this bill. Hopefully, we can find some folks who will sit down and work with people like myself. I have been instrumental in an awful lot of health care legislation over the last 37 years. Hopefully, we can work together in order to get this terrible problem resolved. I am concerned about it.

Health care should never have been a partisan issue, and in this case it is a totally partisan issue. Every Democrat in the House and Senate voted for it. Not a single Republican in the House or Senate voted for it. We all voted against it, knowing in advance that it would be a disaster. Frankly, I would like to get rid of the disaster, and I hope we can find some colleagues on the other side who will be willing to work to do that.

I hope the President will wake up. I think he thinks he is going to double down and fight for this, when, in fact, it is killing his reputation and the Democratic Party's reputation as well.

We clearly can't keep going the way we are.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. GRAHAM. I ask unanimous consent to be able to engage the Senator from New Hampshire in a colloquy for about 20 minutes. I would appreciate it if the Presiding Officer would let us know when the 20 minutes has expired. I would like to discuss the military retiree position and the budget with Senator AYOTTE when she gets here.

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

MILITARY RETIREMENT

Mr. GRAHAM. The Presiding Officer is from Virginia, and I know he understands military men and women very well. It is a very patriotic State when it comes to their military footprint. I am confident that he and I—and others—will be able to fix the problem that occurred in the budget agreement.

Let me say about the agreement itself that I do appreciate the fact that we were able to find a bipartisan way forward to relieve sequestration from the military and nonmilitary for a couple of years. That is just a drop in the bucket as far as what we have to do to repair the military. GDP spending on the military is moving toward an all-time low over a 10-year period with sequestration. The historical average has been well over 4 percent, and we are going to hit below 3 percent if we continue sequestration. That is an issue for another day.

The budget agreement called for relieving sequestration in the pay-fors. Quite frankly, they were not big. They did not change the course of the country. They are not what the Senator from Virginia and I hoped for. We would have liked to have done entitlement reform. I would like to do Tax Code simplification. I am willing to eliminate deductions in the Tax Code and take some of the money to pay down the debt, even though some folks on my side say we have to put it all in tax reductions. And I think the Senator from Virginia would be willing to engage in commonsense entitlement reform to keep us from becoming Greece.

This was the best deal we could get. It didn't do the big deal, but it did provide some budget relief for a 2-year period, and it was about \$60-something billion; I can't remember the number.

The bottom line is that one of the ways you paid for relieving pressure on the defense budget and nondefense spending was there was a provision that will affect military retirees, which nobody will own, that got into the budget agreement.

I am on the Budget Committee. I was not consulted about the agreement; I read about it in the paper. There is a fine line between having a bunch of people involved who kind of keep things from never developing to produce a product and having a handful of people doing something in a small room, not vetted.

So the bottom line is that \$6.3 billion of the pay-fors came from adjusting military retirement cost-of-living allowances for those who have served our military for 20 years and are therefore eligible for retirement. What they did was they took the COLA and reduced it by 1 percent for every military retiree until they reach the age of 62.

The President, to his credit, has called for an adjusting CPI, the way COLAs are calculated, for everybody—for civilians, military, Social Security—to make it more consistent with sustainable inflationary increases. This didn't adjust the COLA, it left the formula as it is; it just reduced the military retiree's COLA by 1 percent until the military retiree reaches age 62, and that is the only group in the country that had that happen. So \$6.3 billion is taken away from men and women who have served for 20 years, and no one else had the pleasure of that experience.

Civilian employees, new hires, had to contribute additional funds to the Federal retirement system to help pay for the deal, but it only affected new retirees; the people who are in the system were grandfathered. The only group that Congress found fit to single out for the retroactive application was the retiree community.

All I can say is that military pay—retirement, pension pay, health care benefits are going to be subject to being reviewed and they will be subject to reform, because a larger portion of our budget in DOD is personnel costs. The Congress, in its wisdom, set up a commission to look at this issue. They are supposed to report back in 2014—now maybe it is as late as 2015—about how to reform military pay and benefits as part of an overall restructuring of the Pentagon.

One thing Congress put into the commission's charter was that they had to grandfather people who are currently in the system. In the budget agreement we singled out military retirees for a 1-percent reduction of their COLA and nobody was grandfathered—\$6.3 billion coming out of the pockets of those who have served. For an E-7 who is going to retire at 40 and has his or her COLA reduced to age 62, it is between \$71,984 or \$80,000, depending on who you talk to, in loss and benefits. And the E-7 receives in retirement pay after 20 years of faithful service about \$25,000 a year—not exactly becoming independently wealthy.

We have one of the leading voices on this issue, Senator AYOTTE from New Hampshire, who took up this challenge and came up with some solutions early on and has been a great voice about how unfair this is. So I will yield to the Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from South Carolina.

I picked up an editorial this morning from the Washington Post that calls the cuts to the cost-of-living adjustments to military retirees minuscule and demeans this criticism. It calls the cuts teensy-weensy.

I don't understand why anyone would want to support a measure that singles out—in other words, under this budget agreement, the group that got the cuts to their current benefits are those who have sacrificed the most for our country. To call this minuscule or teensy-weensy—I don't think it is so minuscule, as the Senator from South Carolina said, to an E-7 who makes about \$25,000 a year in retirement and will lose close to \$72,000 from the time he or she retires at 40 until they are 62. That is about 3 years of their retirement. That is not minuscule in a working family.

This is not a minor situation. It is not minuscule to our veterans, those wounded warriors who have given the most, and who have, unfortunately, suffered so much.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Ms. AYOTTE. I yield.

Mr. GRAHAM. This applies to disabled retirees as well, right?

Ms. AYOTTE. It does. We have all visited Walter Reed and we have all met our wounded warriors who are heroes. They have sacrificed more than we could ever ask anyone to sacrifice for our Nation. Some of them don't have arms, legs. They receive a medical retirement because of their service and their disability as a result of the service they have rendered so gravely for our country, and they get cut under this too. I don't think the cut to them is teensy-weensy or minuscule. Only in Washington would this be minimized in terms of how people are viewed as minuscule or teensy-weensy in light of the service they have given to our country. I thought this description of it was wrong and offensive and demoralizing in terms of the message it sends to our men and women in uniform.

I think the encouraging part of where we are right now is that so many in this body have come forward and said we need to fix this and recognize this does have an unfair impact on our military retirees and, of course, those who have received a medical retirement.

Whether I disagreed with my colleagues voting for the agreement, regardless of where my colleagues stand on the agreement, I think it is time for us to come together on a bipartisan basis and do the right thing and fix this on behalf of our men and women in uniform, especially our wounded warriors.

Obviously, this body realizes this is not minuscule and this is not teensy-weensy in terms of the impact on our heroes and those who have sacrificed so much for our country. I am very encouraged to see so many of my colleagues over the last couple of days coming forward with different ideas about how we can fix this and do the right thing on behalf of our men and women in uniform.

I have introduced a piece of legislation that would come up with billions of dollars for a pay-for to fix this. I know others have different ideas. But I know this: We can put politics aside. We can fix this for our men and women in uniform.

After we go home for the holidays, I think when we come back in January, this should be a No. 1 priority in this body, which is to do the right thing for our military retirees, for those who are our wounded warriors. The number of people I have seen speak out on this issue in the last few days gives me encouragement that we will be able to do this and do it quickly on their behalf, to right this wrong. Some of them are 19 years in. Maybe they have done multiple tours in Afghanistan and are thinking of retiring. We need to let them know we understand their sacrifice, we should not have singled them out, we will get this right, and that we understand that of all the people who should not have been singled out in this agreement are those who take the bullets for us and whose families have

had to go through multiple deployments.

I think about the fact that when someone has done a 20-year military career and one has had multiple deployments, the spouse can't have the same kind of career as if they were able to live in one place. They sacrifice so much because they are traveling around the world and the retirement they receive obviously recognizes that.

So as we leave for the holidays, I hope when we get back, we get this right, we take this up, we honor the service of our men and women in uniform and do what is right.

Mr. GRAHAM. Senator AYOTTE mentioned this Washington Post editorial. The Washington Post is, in my view, a very good newspaper. I like the editorial board. They have been right on Syria and a lot of other issues. Sometimes we disagree, that is for sure. But this one editorial has gotten my attention to the point that I have to respond and, quite frankly, ask my friends at the Washington Post to reevaluate their position and think a little bit about what they are saying in their editorial when it comes to military retirees.

As she said, the editorial says this is a "teensy-weensy" small cut. I said that we were screwing the military retirement community and maybe a better way of saying it was we are disrespecting the military retiree community, because when I said we were screwing the military retirees, it was sort of like the financial package. They are having to give up retirement benefits—the COLA reductions—that not one other person in the entire country has to go through. And it is not teensy-weensy. When it is 1 percent calculated from 40 to 62, it is \$71,000 to \$80,000; if you are an officer, \$100,000. Again, you get about \$25,000 in retirement when you are an E-7; some in the thirties if you are an O-5. But to get that you have to serve your country for 20 years, uprooting your family—probably the average number of moves has to be five or six. If you have been on Active Duty since 9/11, God knows how many times you have been to Iraq and Afghanistan and other places.

Here is the deal: Your children are not subject to being drafted. Why? Because we abolished the draft, and we put in place an all-volunteer force, and part of the deal was that we would take care of the military member and their family in an appropriate way if they would bear that burden for the rest of us.

Are these people really living large off the rest of us? Should we be offended at this "great deal" we are giving these people who retire at 40 or 45 or 38? You know, the "My God, aren't they just sort of taking the rest of us for a ride" attitude really offends the hell out of me.

To get that \$25,000 in retirement for the rest of your life—and I hope you live to be 80, or you just name the number—you had to work for it, you

had to risk your life for it, you had to ask of your children something that most people do not have to ask; that is, move and leave your friends every couple years. You had to do things for the rest of us that, apparently, we do not appreciate anymore at the Washington Post.

I do not know what the editorial board's makeup is. They are all patriotic, I am sure good people, and if they have veterans down there, boy, you let your fellow veteran down by approaching this issue in such a harsh, insensitive way. Their response was: No, the military retiree is not getting screwed. This is just a small step to something larger.

What they are trying to do—which offends me—is, one, they do not know what they are talking about, which is unusual for the Washington Post. Do not confuse my disgust with the singling out of military retirees in a retroactive fashion to pay for a budget deal that does not do a whole lot to change the course of the country with my desire and willingness to reform military pay and pension benefits in the future through a logical process. Now, that offends me. That is pretty clever.

So can you be for reform and be disgusted at the same time? Yes. And here is the good news. Very few U.S. Senators are taking the Washington Post tactic that these people deserve more cuts—not less—singled out. I think the Washington Post is on an island of its own, at least I hope so.

People who voted yes—Senator MCCAIN, God knows he has earned his retirement; Senator CHAMBLISS; Senator ISAKSON—have come up with a way to fix this, and all three of them will say: I will embrace military pay and pension benefit reform in the future. I am not just going to single out the military retiree and reduce their COLA when no one else gets that reduction retroactively, violating their own commission charter.

Senator SHAHEEN on the other side wants to fix it. Senator MURRAY wants to fix it. I am really pleased that a lot of people have said: Now that I understand how this works, we need to fix it.

I have not even mentioned the fact that it does apply to disabled retirees. If you had your legs blown off in Afghanistan, it might be pretty hard to get another job. Your COLA is reduced too.

What do you say to those people? Thank you? Itsy-bitsy, teensy-weensy? Really? But they did not mention in the editorial that it applies to the disabled retiree. Mr. President, \$600 million of the \$6 billion comes from that community.

Here is my point: It is not so much that we were insensitive. It just shows me how far we have fallen as a nation and how comfortable we are for other people to do the fighting and we see these folks almost as the hired help, even though we profusely praise them, and we should. We welcome them home

when they come back. We cheer when they go away. We trip over ourselves as politicians to show our love and affection. The average person at the airport says: Thank you for your service. We are well-meaning people. But to believe that somehow they are being fairly treated in this budget deal and really we are just not doing enough from the Washington Post's perspective, I think loses sight of what they have done for the rest of us.

Let's say we never reformed a penny of military retirement in the future and we left it as it is. About \$1.734 million is the package over the lifetime from the 20-year retirement point to death, which the average could be 40 years. We need to look at that. But let's say we did not change a penny. Over a 40-year period, at \$25,000 a year, do you begrudge these people this package? After 20 years of service, they are now in their forties, their late thirties—the average is probably in the mid forties—they have to start over again. Go do that. Not so easy. And somehow we are suggesting that we are being too generous?

Would you send your kid? If I gave you \$1.74 million over the next 40 years, is that worth it for you to have your kid sent over to Afghanistan or Iraq, if they did not want to go? That is what this is about.

So to my friends at the Washington Post, I do not know what happened here. I do not know how you could justify and defend this provision in the budget agreement that nobody wants to claim credit for. Again, I will reform military pay and pension benefits through the commission process prospectively, but I will not sit on the sidelines and watch these people, yes, get screwed financially but, more than that, be disrespected.

To my House and Senate colleagues, Republican and Democrats, we created this problem together. We will have to fix it together. And to the military retiree community, the disabled retiree, I am confident that Republicans and Democrats will right this wrong.

Having said that, there will come a day when we will sit down and look long and hard about the sustainable nature of personnel costs—TRICARE reform—pay and pension reform—but we are going to do it understanding you have a special place in our heart, but when it comes to balancing the budget and writing the Department of Defense long-term financial obligations, that we will look at this in a professional manner, and we will do it in the way least intrusive, and we will give people notice. We will not change the deal.

Can you imagine what it is like to have fought since 9/11; you are getting ready to retire in 2016, after 20 years of faithful service—or maybe longer—you are from your last deployment in Afghanistan; you have been to Iraq a couple times, Afghanistan a couple times; you had a couple buddies die; you have missed countless birthdays and Christmases, and every time a strange car

pulls up into the driveway, your spouse loses their breath, and you read that this is what the Congress is doing to you—changing the deal? You did your part of the deal, but all of a sudden we decide to change the deal because we have to find some money around this place to pay for a budget deal that does not do a whole lot for the long-term indebtedness of the country. And when we look to find money, we saw you as a source of money—not as the patriot, not as the front-line defender of freedom, not as the volunteer who took the burden off our backs and gave our families a pass. Shame on us all.

But the way you fix it is you fix it. To my friends at the Washington Post, Bowles-Simpson never said as part of their efforts to balance the budget—and I embrace their process—that we would eliminate military retiree COLAs as a recommendation. They set a target goal of saving \$70 billion over 10 years from a Federal workforce entitlement task force to be set up to look at civilians and the military who work for the Federal Government, and they created the task force with a target goal of achieving \$70 billion as a contribution toward reforming entitlements on that side of the ledger.

They gave examples of what the task force might look at: Use the highest 5 years of earnings to calculate civil service pension benefits for new retirees, rather than the highest 3 years. That could save \$5 billion. Defer cost-of-living adjustments, as we are talking about here. That could save \$5 billion. Adjust the ratio of employer-employee contributions to Federal employee pension plans to equalize contributions, \$4 billion. These are examples of things to look at—not Bowles-Simpson recommendations. The recommendation of Bowles-Simpson was to find \$70 billion from military and civilian retirement programs over 10 years through a task force.

What did the Congress do? We set up a commission—rather than a task force—to do exactly what Bowles-Simpson said to do. And to our wisdom, we told the commission, when it comes to the military, grandfather those who are currently in the system. That made sense to me. But under the budget agreement, we violated our own instructions to the commission by getting \$6.3 billion from the military retirement community retroactively, from everybody in the system up to age 62, and only them. The civilian workforce had to make a contribution only for new hires.

If that is OK with the Washington Post, then I would suggest you have lost your way down there. I hope I never get so smart that taking \$72,000, \$80,000, \$100,000—whatever the number is; the bottom line is, the minimum was \$72,000 out of the E-7 cost-of-living adjustment; 3 years of their retirement—I hope I never get so smart about the budget that I find that to be itsy-bitsy, teensy-weensy. I hope I never get so callous that I could sit on

the sidelines and allow the military retirement community to be singled out, unlike anybody else in the Nation, to find \$6.3 billion when we are looking for money.

The bottom line is we will find the \$6.3 billion. We are going to find it in a more acceptable way. And there will come a day when we reform benefits, but we are going to do it consistent with the charter that the Congress has created.

To our military community, you need to fight. You need to show up during the holiday break, and you need to remind all of us—just not Members of Congress—you need to toot your horn a little bit because it is so darn hard for you to do. You should humbly ask the U.S. House and Senate to reconsider this. You should humbly ask that the pay you received has been earned, and to change the deal in midstream is wrong. And you should remind us that: I have lived up to my end of the bargain. I am only asking that you live up to your end of the bargain. We need your voice.

So to the Senator from Virginia, who is presiding over the Senate, I know you will be part of the solution. There is a sweeping movement here in the Senate to try to find a way to right what I think is an injustice. Reform will come with it. But it sure as hell is not going to come this way.

I yield the floor. Merry Christmas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, first I wish to thank my colleagues from New Hampshire and South Carolina.

There is at least an opportunity or a tradition at the end of a calendar year that we take the nominations pending in the Senate, both in committee and on the calendar, and literally return them to the White House. That means that in the beginning of the next year, we start over. It may mean a hearing, it may mean postponement, but we lose all we have achieved up to this point. We absolutely have to start over. I would argue at this point that we seriously consider changing that tradition, and I will make a unanimous consent request to change it.

There are some 238 total nominees who are at issue here. Eighty-three are on the Executive Calendar and 155 are pending in committee—nominations sent by the White House to Capitol Hill which have either been lost—not lost in committee but held in committee—or sent to the calendar. Of the group I have just mentioned, of the 238, 47 are judicial nominations, 36 are Ambassadors—and I have read through the list of countries here and they range from some of the smaller ones to larger countries as well—and 86 are nominees to Cabinet-level agencies. So it is a wide spectrum of appointments that have been sent for Senate consideration to Capitol Hill.

We are embroiled in an internal debate about the rules of the Senate con-

cerning the filibuster and nominations. It is one that has not been resolved to the satisfaction of either side of the aisle, but we have labored through it over the last several weeks and will when we return.

I am going to make a unanimous consent request that those nominations—all of them; the military nominations as well as others—be held here on the calendar and in committee and not be returned to the White House, thereby requiring we repeat everything we have done in this previous year. We don't get high marks at the end of this year for our legislative performance, and to throw aside all of the effort that has been put into these nominees and require the White House to start over is literally a waste of time and unfortunate for these nominees, many of whom have been waiting for a long period of time for consideration and a vote by the Senate.

This is a chance, with this unanimous consent request, to get the next year off to a good start, where we can take what has been done with nominees, use it, take those nominations that are on the calendar, move forward; they will still be subject to an up-or-down vote. The Senate has to work its will, and that will not be compromised at all by the unanimous consent request I am making, but I am hoping we can get it through so that when we return on January 6, we will have an opportunity to move with a little more dispatch and a little more productivity in the Senate.

As in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that all nominations received by the Senate during the 113th Congress, first session, remain in status quo, notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM. Yes. Reserving the right to object, to my good friend from Illinois, all I can say is that the normal way the Senate has operated for a couple of hundred years has been destroyed this year, and asking that normalcy come about now is beyond the pale, but we are where we are. So I object.

However, I urge the Senate to act to confirm the many military nominations pending for the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. So I object, with that understanding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I understand we are at a point of great emotions and feelings, stress in the Senate over the change in the rules about the use of the filibuster in the Senate. Unfortunately, it appears that we are going to stay in that state for at least a short period of time, and I am not holding my colleague from South Carolina accountable for that. I believe what he has done is reflect the feelings on that side of the aisle, not just his personal feelings. However, I believe he has made a valuable suggestion.