

appropriate that we pass that piece of legislation on the anniversary of 9/11.

By amending the current law to hold foreign sponsors of terrorism potentially liable in U.S. courts for acts that injure or kill Americans, this bill will allow the families of the victims of the attacks on 9/11 and others to proceed to court against those responsible for those horrific attacks that took place 13 years ago.

Part of the attack against international terrorism has to be to go against the money that finances it, and this will provide another tool for those families to attack those who fund and finance international terrorism.

This bill, not surprisingly, is strongly supported by the 9/11 family victims, and it would allow their litigation to proceed on its merits. I am hopeful it will receive the prompt consideration here on the Senate floor that it deserves.

Americans have always been deeply concerned about the kind of country and the kind of world we leave our children. As parents, that is what keeps us going some days. Of course, grandparents have other reasons to keep going and to keep fighting for a better world. This remains true both abroad and here at home in our own communities and in our schools and at work. We must continue to push on undeterred, always confident in the pursuit of our ultimate goal: a just, free, and peaceful world not just for ourselves but for our allies and for future generations. Part of that mission involves stopping evil at its source, running it down, and eliminating it for good because we learned another thing on 9/11: We can either take the fight to the source of the evil where it exists or we can defend here on the homeland. Speaking for myself and I am sure others, I want to go fight it at its source and not just defend on the homeland.

The minions of terror have shown their capacity for inhumanity. We have seen recent reminders of that with the beheading of two American journalists by ISIS. We must never underestimate the capacity and desire of these evil people to do so again and again.

We have recently been reminded of this, and last night the President spoke to the Nation's commitment to deal with this sort of horrific activity and dangerous and extreme ideology. As we adapt to new threats and new challenges, Americans must maintain a sense of vigilance, a sense of purpose, and a sense of moral clarity.

We must never forget why we fight, and we must always make sure that our brave men and women in uniform have what they need in order to take the fight to our Nation's enemies. The greatest honor we can give to those we lost is to live our lives worthy of their sacrifice, relish the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, and ensure the promise that those freedoms shall not perish for future generations.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate very much the distinguished Senator from Texas for yielding the floor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the motion to proceed to S. 2199 be considered expired.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered. All postcloture time has expired and the question occurs on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

The motion was agreed to.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2199) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3800

Mr. REID. In regard to this, Mr. President, I have an amendment that is at the desk that I ask the clerk to report.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. Reid] proposes an amendment numbered 3800.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 20, line 4, strike "6 months" and insert "7 months".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3801 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3800

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3801 to amendment No. 3800.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "7" and insert "8".

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3802

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit S. 2199 with instructions, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 3802.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 20, line 4, strike "6 months after the date of enactment" and insert "7 months after the date of enactment".

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3803

Mr. REID. I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3803 to the instructions to the motion to commit S. 2199.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "7 months" and insert "8 months."

Mr. REID. I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3804 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3803

Mr. REID. I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 3804 to amendment No. 3803.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "8" and insert "9".

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk that I ask the Presiding Officer to order reported.

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

The assistant 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. 2199, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Tom Harkin, Barbara A. Mikulski, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Maria Cantwell, Mazie Hirono, Kay R. Hagan, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Dianne Feinstein, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Barbara Boxer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Charles E. Schumer.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

BANK ON STUDENTS EMERGENCY
LOAN REFINANCING ACT—MO-
TION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 409, S. 2432, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the refinancing of certain Federal student loans, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to S.J. Res. 19 occur at 1:45 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Delaware.

WEST AFRICA

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, this is an uneasy time in our world. There is no shortage of crises that demand our attention and our action. The President called on us last night to step up to the very real challenge posed by the terrorist group ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Russian aggression against Ukraine demands our attention. A fragile ceasefire continues between Hamas and Gaza. There is the Central American exodus to our southern border that riveted the attention of many this summer; and there is continuing negotiations to seek an end to Iran's illicit nuclear weapons program.

Behind all of this there is another and equally important challenge I wanted to draw this body's attention to for a few minutes today—the spread of a quiet and vicious virus throughout West Africa. While the Nation's attention today for good reason is on remembering the tragic events of 9/11, and the President's strategy for combating ISIS today, I would like to speak to another urgent challenge to our country and world, and that is the need to dramatically increase our support as communities across West Africa struggle to confront and combat Ebola.

I met and have spoken with Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. She is a Nobel Prize winner and impressive leader who has brought her country back from a terrible civil war and was making huge progress toward the development of Liberia. I had the honor of meeting with her here and visiting her country. In my role as the chair of the African Affairs Subcommittee, I have met few others who have impressed me as much as President Johnson-Sirleaf.

Leaders throughout this region are doing everything they can to save lives, but in my most recent communications with President Johnson-Sirleaf it is clear that Ebola is rapidly getting beyond the capacity and ability of these communities and countries to contain it and to recover from it. They need our action.

Individuals on the ground from groups such as Doctors Without Borders and Samaritan's Purse have done remarkable, heroic, and extraordinary work by putting their own lives on the line to help others, and they have borne the overwhelming majority of the risks, service, and sacrifice so far.

The news has just been announced that the Gates Foundation will contribute \$50 million to this fight, which is critical, as public funds alone will not be enough to end this crisis.

Our own people, through the U.S. Government, can and must do more. It need not be the role of the United States alone to resolve this problem, but it is our responsibility to stand side by side with those working tirelessly to stop it. It is our responsibility to not just lend a hand but to help lead in ways that only we can and to use our unique capabilities to address this crisis. If Ebola's spread reveals one thing it is that we are more interconnected today than we have ever been in our human history and that disease truly knows and respects no borders. We need to continue to act, not only because we are morally compelled to help the tens of thousands who are facing an immediate threat, but also because we have a direct stake in the resolution of this crisis.

This is a manageable public health crisis that we know how to solve, but doing so requires our focus, our attention, our resolve, and our resources, tools that only the United States has.

Let me briefly outline five specific steps I believe we should take now.

First, I think it is critical the United States has one leadership point—that the White House designate a coordinator to oversee the U.S. whole-of-government emergency response. There are many ways the United States is currently helping across many agencies from the Department of Defense to the Centers for Disease Control to the State Department and USAID. Those agencies are doing great work as part of the disaster assistance response team on the ground.

At a time when the U.S. Government is also facing and addressing crises in Iraq, Ukraine, and elsewhere, I think we need one organizer, one coordinator, one responsible figure addressing this crisis who is appointed by the White House to coordinate all of our resources and all the people necessary from the U.S. Government for this growing effort. President Obama should designate an official to manage our country's response both overseas and here in the United States, including preparing us for the remote chance this virus might reach American soil.

Our ambassadors on the ground in the three most affected countries are playing the primary role in coordination right now, and they are doing remarkable work, but I will remind my colleagues in this body that in Sierra Leone there is no currently confirmed U.S. Ambassador. The nominee, John Hoover, has been waiting almost 8

months to be confirmed. This is just one painful reminder that the dysfunction of this body has prevented us from confirming nominated ambassadors to dozens of countries around the world. To be effective we need to coordinate our U.S.-based and our field-based efforts through ambassadors on the ground.

Second, we must begin to deploy U.S. military support to the maximum extent possible. Let me be clear: I don't mean combat capabilities, I mean the unique logistical capabilities of the U.S. military, their ability to deploy through their logistical capabilities. We have resources that no other country can bring to bear as quickly and as successfully as we can.

I was encouraged to hear an announcement this past week from the administration that they plan to use our military to establish a new hospital facility in Liberia to distribute equipment, to provide infrastructure and transportation support. I will admit I am concerned it will take weeks to deploy.

On my visit to Liberia last August, I was struck at how poor and underdeveloped this nation of brave and inspiring people currently is and how paved roads and the ability to move at any speed rapidly ends just a few miles from the capital, and how strained the infrastructure and the public health systems are by this rapidly growing crisis.

This is not everything we can and should be doing. We need to build more field hospitals for civilians in Liberia and beyond so there are facilities for health workers and civilians fighting the disease. We also can and should provide airlift of supplies from private donors.

I have heard from organizations that have worked at the transportation facility and have donated supplies that can fill cargo plane after cargo plane, but they are having difficulty getting it from here to West Africa. We need to deepen our coordination with foreign militaries. Other Nations possess similar advance capabilities, as we do, and we will be able to combat this crisis more effectively if we all work together.

I appreciate Ghana's efforts and partnership as it allows us to use some of their facilities as an air bridge for logistics. As more air resources are poured into this fight against Ebola, we need other countries in the region to lend a similarly open hand.

My third point is directed to our private sector, to international organizations, to the American people, and to citizens of other developed nations. We need your support and your generosity and we need it now.

This is a letter that Liberia's President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf sent to President Obama this week, and I wish to read from it briefly.

Mr. President, as you know, the outbreak has overwhelmed the containment and treatment measures we have attempted thus far.