

undergraduates, and a little higher for graduates and PLUS loans. This single change would give borrowers across this country a chance to save hundreds—and for some, thousands—of dollars a year. That's real money—money they can put toward paying down the balance on their debt, saving for a home, buying a car—money they can put toward building a solid future.

This bill doesn't add one dime to the deficit. It is fully paid for by closing up a tax loophole that allows millionaires and billionaires to pay a lower tax rate than middle class families.

If Republicans don't like that way to pay for the student loan bill, here's another idea. Senators REED and BLUMENTHAL have advanced a bill that would close a different tax loophole. They want to end the tax breaks for executive bonuses that are bigger than a million dollars.

I say to my Republican colleagues, if you don't like that way to pay for the student loan bill, there are other options as well. Let's sit down and talk about it, but don't close your eyes and pretend this isn't happening. Don't turn your backs on the 40 million Americans with student loan debt. Don't do nothing.

Refinancing student loans will not fix everything that is wrong in our higher education system. We need to cut the price of college. We need to reinvest in public universities. We need to shore up financial aid, crack down on for-profit colleges, and provide better protections on student loans, but let's start by allowing people to refinance their student loans. Let's start by cutting back on the interest payments that are sinking young people and holding back this economy.

We could have refinanced student loan debt 1 year ago, but Republicans said no. Now Americans owe \$100 billion more than they did. Now nearly 1 million more borrowers are falling behind. Now more people than ever are choking on student loan debt.

By refusing to act, Republicans are sinking the hopes of an entire generation. It is time for Congress to step up and fix this problem, before it drags down another million Americans and another and another. It is time to refinance student loan debt.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 103—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

Ms. STABENOW (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. FRANKEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 103

Whereas the primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic needs of all people, especially the most vulnerable in society;

Whereas social work pioneers have helped lead the struggle for social justice in the United States and have helped pave the way for positive social change;

Whereas social workers are key employees at the Federal, State, and local levels of government and work to expand policies and practices that promote equity and social justice for all people;

Whereas social workers stand up for individuals and support diverse families in every community;

Whereas social workers continue to work to improve the rights of women, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender ("LGBT") community, and communities of color;

Whereas social workers know from experience that discrimination of any kind limits human potential and must be eliminated;

Whereas social workers know from experience that poverty and trauma can create lifelong social and economic disadvantages;

Whereas social workers help people in every stage of life function better in their environments, improve relationships with others, and solve personal and family problems;

Whereas all children have the right to safe environments and quality education;

Whereas dignity and caregiving for older adults help define the character of a nation;

Whereas veterans and the families of veterans need community support to ensure successful transitions after service;

Whereas access to mental health treatment and health care services saves millions of lives;

Whereas research has shown that all people, no matter the circumstance, may at some point in their lives need the expertise of a skilled social worker;

Whereas social workers celebrate the courage, hope, and strength of the human spirit throughout their careers;

Whereas March is recognized as Social Work Month; and

Whereas World Social Work Day is recognized on March 18, 2015: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Social Work Month and World Social Work Day;

(2) acknowledges the diligent efforts of individuals and groups who promote the importance of social work and observe Social Work Month and World Social Work Day;

(3) encourages individuals to engage in appropriate ceremonies and activities to promote further awareness of the life-changing role that social workers play; and

(4) recognizes with gratitude the contributions of the millions of caring individuals who have chosen to serve their communities through social work.

SENATE RESOLUTION 104—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE SUCCESS OF OPERATION STREAMLINE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PROSECUTING FIRST TIME ILLEGAL BORDER CROSSERS

Mr. FLAKE (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 104

Whereas the Border Patrol's Yuma Sector has long grappled with the crossing of undocumented aliens and has seen illegal traffic decline precipitously from the early 2000s to the present;

Whereas a combination of increased manpower, technology implementation, and the

delivery of appropriate consequences have resulted in gains in border security in the Yuma Sector;

Whereas a key to the success in the Yuma Sector has been the implementation of Operation Streamline, a program established in 2005 that was described by former Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano as "a DHS partnership with the Department of Justice, . . . a geographically focused operation that aims to increase the consequences for illegally crossing the border by criminally prosecuting illegal border-crossers.";

Whereas known for its "zero-tolerance" approach, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office cites 100 percent prosecution of illegal border crossers as a shared goal of a partnership including Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies;

Whereas among the various consequences delivered to illegal crossers by the Department of Homeland Security, Operation Streamline is associated with a recidivism rate that is well below average and has seen a steady decrease in recidivism in recent years;

Whereas the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona will reportedly no longer be prosecuting those apprehended crossing the border illegally for the first time; and

Whereas according to the Sheriff of Yuma County, Operation Streamline "had a deterrent effect in Yuma County, which gained a reputation as an area to avoid crossing into because if caught, you were assured to go to court and possibly face penalties", but now the program has been "has been severely diluted."

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) gains made in border security in the Yuma Sector and positive trends in recidivism rates are of critical importance to those living and working in the border region and to the Nation as a whole;

(2) refusing to prosecute first time illegal border crossers under Operation Streamline will jeopardize border security gains;

(3) the border security steps that have led to some measure of improvement on the border, such as the historical implementation of Operation Streamline, should be preserved; and

(4) the Executive Branch should immediately remove any issued or related prohibition, policy, guidance, or direction to cease prosecuting first time illegal border crossers under Operation Streamline.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 319. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 319. Mr. TILLIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 178, to provide justice for the victims of trafficking; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . . REVOCATION OF IMMIGRATION BENEFITS FOR ALIENS CONVICTED OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If a covered alien is convicted of human trafficking or any conspiracy related to human trafficking, the

Secretary of Homeland Security or the Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall—

(1) revoke any immigration benefit granted to the covered alien;

(2) revoke any relief from removal provided pursuant to policies implemented under, or substantially similar to policies implemented under, an Executive action or memorandum set out under subsection (c) granted to the covered alien; and

(3) place the covered alien in expedited proceedings for removal from the United States after the covered alien completes any term of imprisonment for such a conviction.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED ALIEN.—The term “covered alien”—

(A) means an alien present in the United States; and

(B) does not include an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

(2) LAWFULLY ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The term “lawfully admitted for permanent residence” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(c) EXECUTIVE ACTIONS.—The Executive actions and memoranda set out under this subsection are the following:

(1) The memorandum from the Director of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement entitled “Civil Immigration Enforcement: Priorities for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Aliens” dated March 2, 2011.

(2) The memorandum from the Director of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion Consistent with the Civil Immigration Enforcement Priorities of the Agency for the Apprehension, Detention, and Removal of Aliens” dated June 17, 2011.

(3) The memorandum from the Principal Legal Advisor of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement entitled “Case-by-Case Review of Incoming and Certain Pending Cases” dated November 17, 2011.

(4) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children” dated June 15, 2012.

(5) The memorandum from the Director of United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement entitled “Civil Immigration Enforcement: Guidance on the Use of Detainers in the Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Criminal Justice Systems” dated December 21, 2012.

(6) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Southern Border and Approaches Campaign” dated November 20, 2014.

(7) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies for the Apprehension, Detention and Removal of Undocumented Immigrants” dated November 20, 2014.

(8) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Secure Communities” dated November 20, 2014.

(9) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children and with Respect to Certain Individuals Who Are the Parents of U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents” dated November 20, 2014.

(10) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Expansion of the Provisional Waiver Program” dated November 20, 2014.

(11) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies Supporting U.S. High-Skilled Businesses and Workers” dated November 20, 2014.

(12) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Families of U.S. Armed Forces Members and Enlistees” dated November 20, 2014.

(13) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Directive to Provide Consistency Regarding Advance Parole” dated November 20, 2014.

(14) The memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policies to Promote and Increase Access to U.S. Citizenship” dated November 20, 2014.

(15) The memorandum from the President entitled “Modernizing and Streamlining the U.S. Immigrant Visa System for the 21st Century” dated November 21, 2014.

(16) The memorandum from the President entitled “Creating Welcoming Communities and Fully Integrating Immigrants and Refugees” dated November 21, 2014.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 18, 2015, at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 18, 2015, at 2:30 p.m., in room SR-253 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission.”

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 18, 2015, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act.”

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

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 18, 2015, in room SD-628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on March 18, 2015, at 10 a.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “The Impact of Abusive Parent

Litigation Practices on the American Economy.”

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 18, 2015, at 10 a.m. in room SD-G50 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEAPOWERS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Seapower of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 18, 2015, at 9:30 a.m.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Sirvat Tokatlian, be allowed privileges of the floor throughout the day.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1191

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1191) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for a second reading and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m., Thursday, March 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of S. 178, with the time until the