

Martinez	Shelby	Thomas
McCain	Smith	Thune
McConnell	Snowe	Vitter
Murkowski	Specter	Voivovich
Roberts	Stevens	Warner
Santorum	Sununu	
Sessions	Talent	

NAYS—48

Akaka	Durbin	Lincoln
Baucus	Ensign	Menendez
Bayh	Feingold	Mikulski
Biden	Feinstein	Murray
Bingaman	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Boxer	Inouye	Nelson (NE)
Burns	Jeffords	Obama
Byrd	Johnson	Pryor
Cantwell	Kennedy	Reed
Carper	Kerry	Reid
Clinton	Kohl	Rockefeller
Coburn	Landrieu	Salazar
Conrad	Sarbanes	Sarbanes
Dayton	Leahy	Schumer
Dodd	Levin	Stabenow
Dorgan	Lieberman	Wyden

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 47) was passed.

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. SANTORUM. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3133

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 83.

Under the previous order, the vote now occurs on the Conrad amendment No. 3133.

Mr. SANTORUM. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3133.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll. Mr. McCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOIVOVICH).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 44, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 55 Leg.]

YEAS—44

Akaka	Feingold	Menendez
Baucus	Feinstein	Mikulski
Bayh	Harkin	Murray
Biden	Inouye	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Jeffords	Obama
Boxer	Johnson	Pryor
Byrd	Kennedy	Reed
Cantwell	Kerry	Reid
Carper	Kohl	Rockefeller
Clinton	Landrieu	Salazar
Conrad	Lautenberg	Sarbanes
Dayton	Leahy	Sarbanes
Dodd	Levin	Schumer
Dorgan	Lieberman	Stabenow
Durbin	Lincoln	Wyden

NAYS—55

Alexander	Bennett	Bunning
Allard	Bond	Burns
Allen	Brownback	Burr

Chafee	Graham	Roberts
Chambliss	Grassley	Santorum
Coburn	Gregg	Sessions
Cochran	Hagel	Shelby
Coleman	Hatch	Smith
Collins	Hutchison	Snowe
Cornyn	Inhofe	Specter
Craig	Isakson	Stevens
Crapo	Kyl	Sununu
DeMint	Lott	Talent
DeWine	Lugar	Thomas
Dole	Martinez	Thune
Domenici	McCain	Vitter
Ensign	McConnell	Warner
Enzi	Murkowski	
Frist	Nelson (NE)	

NOT VOTING—1

Voivovich

The amendment (No. 3133) was rejected.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 3114

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now is on agreeing to the Burr amendment No. 3114.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll. The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 56 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Akaka	Domenici	McCain
Alexander	Dorgan	McConnell
Allard	Durbin	Menendez
Allen	Ensign	Mikulski
Baucus	Enzi	Murkowski
Bayh	Feingold	Murray
Bennett	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Frist	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Graham	Obama
Bond	Grassley	Pryor
Boxer	Gregg	Reed
Brownback	Hagel	Roberts
Bunning	Harkin	Rockefeller
Burns	Hatch	Salazar
Burr	Hutchison	Santorum
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sarbanes
Carper	Inouye	Sarbanes
Chafee	Isakson	Schumer
Chambliss	Jeffords	Sessions
Clinton	Johnson	Shelby
Coburn	Kennedy	Smith
Cochran	Kerry	Snowe
Coleman	Kohl	Specter
Collins	Kyl	Stabenow
Conrad	Landrieu	Stevens
Cornyn	Lautenberg	Sununu
Craig	Leahy	Talent
Crapo	Levin	Thomas
Dayton	Lieberman	Thune
DeMint	Lincoln	Vitter
DeWine	Lott	Voivovich
Dodd	Lugar	Warner
Dole	Martinez	Wyden

NAYS—1

Byrd

The amendment (No. 3114) was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAHAM). The time until 1:30 p.m. shall be equally divided.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, at this point, we are going to begin the amending process again. The sequence on our side will be Senator CORNYN, Senator VITTER, then I understand we go to Senator STABENOW and Senator AKAKA.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, on our side it is Senator STABENOW, Senator AKAKA, Senator LINCOLN. I should intercede, Senator VITTER will be paired with Senator LANDRIEU on an amendment for Louisiana.

Mr. GREGG. We will do Senator CORNYN and then Senator VITTER, and then I presume we will go to Senator STABENOW and then Senator AKAKA, then Senator COLLINS, then Senator LINCOLN; right?

Mr. CONRAD. Very well. Mr. GREGG. I yield Senator CORNYN 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3100

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3100 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN], for himself, and Mr. GRAHAM, proposes an amendment numbered 3100.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide for reconciliation instructions to the Committee on Finance to reduce mandatory spending)

On page 4, line 15, decrease the amount by \$1,279,625,000.

On page 4, line 17, decrease the amount by \$1,340,125,000.

On page 4, line 19, decrease the amount by \$1,403,250,000.

On page 4, line 21, decrease the amount by \$1,469,500,000.

On page 5, line 6, decrease the amount by \$1,279,625,000.

On page 5, line 8, decrease the amount by \$1,340,125,000.

On page 5, line 10, decrease the amount by \$1,403,250,000.

On page 5, line 12, decrease the amount by \$1,469,500,000.

On page 5, line 21, decrease the amount by \$1,279,625,000.

On page 5, line 23, decrease the amount by \$1,340,125,000.

On page 5, line 25, decrease the amount by \$1,403,250,000.

On page 6, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,469,500,000.

On page 6, line 10, decrease the amount by \$1,279,625,000.

On page 6, line 12, decrease the amount by \$2,619,750,000.

On page 6, line 14, decrease the amount by \$4,023,000,000.

On page 6, line 16, decrease the amount by \$5,492,500,000.

On page 6, line 24, decrease the amount by \$1,279,625,000.

On page 7, line 2, decrease the amount by \$2,619,750,000.

On page 7, line 4, decrease the amount by \$4,023,000,000.

On page 7, line 6, decrease the amount by \$5,492,500,000.

On page 21, line 3, decrease the amount by \$1,250,000,000.

On page 21, line 4, decrease the amount by \$1,250,000,000.

On page 21, line 7, decrease the amount by \$1,250,000,000.

On page 21, line 8, decrease the amount by \$1,250,000,000.

On page 21, line 11, decrease the amount by \$1,250,000,000.

On page 21, line 12, decrease the amount by \$1,250,000,000.

On page 21, line 15, decrease the amount by \$1,250,000,000.

On page 21, line 16, decrease the amount by \$1,250,000,000.

On page 27, line 3, decrease the amount by \$29,625,000.

On page 27, line 4, decrease the amount by \$29,625,000.

On page 27, line 7, decrease the amount by \$90,125,000.

On page 27, line 8, decrease the amount by \$90,125,000.

On page 27, line 11, decrease the amount by \$153,250,000.

On page 27, line 12, decrease the amount by \$153,250,000.

On page 27, line 15, decrease the amount by \$219,500,000.

On page 27, line 16, decrease the amount by \$219,500,000.

On page 29, strike lines 14 through 19, and insert the following:

(a) SPENDING RECONCILIATION INSTRUCTIONS.—In the Senate, by May 16, 2006, the committees named in this section shall submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget of the Senate. After receiving those recommendations, the Committee on the Budget shall report to the Senate a reconciliation bill carrying out all such recommendations without any substantive revision.

(b) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.—The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction sufficient to reduce budget authority and outlays by \$0 in fiscal year 2007, and \$3,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

(c) COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.—The Senate Committee on Finance shall report changes in laws within its jurisdiction sufficient to reduce budget authority and outlays by \$0 in fiscal year 2007 and \$10,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that Senator GRAHAM of South Carolina be added as a cosponsor.

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, last year, Congress made some real progress in getting a handle on mandatory spending by passing the Deficit Reduction Act. The Deficit Reduction Act will reduce mandatory spending by nearly \$100 billion over the next decade, and it is the first time Congress has taken a hard look at how to find savings and reduce the budget deficit on the mandatory spending side since 1997.

The Deficit Reduction Act is a good first step. My amendment builds on the savings of the Deficit Reduction Act. My amendment lowers the Federal budget deficit, lowers the Federal debt, and does not increase taxes on the American people.

Today, the Federal budget, as we all know, is heavily weighted in favor of mandatory spending—entitlement spending, so to speak. As people live longer and the baby boom generation retires, that spending will increase and eat up a larger and larger share of our budget.

Just in Medicare and Medicaid alone, in the last 5 years, we have seen a 22-percent increase in entitlement spending for those two programs. And if we don't do something in the next 30 years about entitlement spending, we won't have a dime of revenue to pay for other items that are important, such as defense, education, NIH research, and payments to health care providers to reimbursement under Medicare and Medicaid.

My amendment directs the Senate Finance Committee to find \$10 billion in additional savings over the next 5 years. One proposal for the Finance Committee to consider under this amendment would be to repeal the stabilization fund included in the Medicare Modernization Act. Let me explain what that is.

This is essentially a bonus provision to preferred provider organizations—insurance companies, in other words—over and above the regular Medicare share to encourage them to participate in the Medicare Program. There simply is no reason to increase the Federal subsidy for these insurance companies over and above regular Medicare payments. We should eliminate that bonus and use that money, which is not necessary, to pay down the debt by \$7 billion.

There are other good areas I believe for the Finance Committee to find the \$10 billion this amendment would require. The problem is this: If we don't do something about the autopilot our budget is on when it comes to the mandatory side of spending, we have only ourselves to blame because no one is at the wheel, and I am afraid the plane will crash all too soon. We are feeling the squeeze already. The appropriators, I know, are trying to squeeze more and more out of the discretionary spending portion of the budget because as the mandatory and entitlement side rose, there was less and less flexibility for spending on important programs that represent America's priorities under the discretionary portion of the budget.

So I encourage my colleagues to support this amendment. It is one that can be done without detracting from current Medicare spending, but eliminates this bonus provision, this additional cash or Federal subsidy that is provided for under the law that could be saved and be put to more constructive use, showing that we are serious about fiscal responsibility and paying down the debt.

I yield back the remaining time.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise to support this amendment. I think it is an excellent idea and hopefully it will be successful. Stabilization money is certainly available. It is walking-around money. We don't need to have it sitting there, and we should use it for reducing the deficit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, this is a difficult matter for this Senator be-

cause I have proposed many times to my colleagues doing away with the stabilization fund. So this amendment puts me in a quandary to the extent that if we can assure that with this amendment we would eliminate the stabilization fund, I would be with the Senator.

The problem we face here is, No. 1, the stabilization fund is \$6.2 billion, it is not \$10 billion. No. 2, because of the way the budget resolution works, we cannot direct the Finance Committee on how to make the reduction. I wish we could, but we cannot.

What we would be doing, in effect, by the Senator's amendment is telling the Finance Committee to cut \$10 billion out of Medicare. They could do that in any number of ways without affecting the stabilization fund at all. In fact, colleagues may recall last year the Senate told the Finance Committee to take out the stabilization fund. I call it the slush fund. I think it is an absolute waste of money. I absolutely agree with the Senator on that point. But we all know at the end of the process, the stabilization fund was left intact because the way the budget process works, we give an instruction about how much finances to cut, but we cannot tell them how to do it.

So I want my colleagues to know that is the circumstance we face with this amendment. I thank the Senator for the good faith of his amendment.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Louisiana.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3025

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I rise in support of my filed amendment No. 3025. I will not formally call it up because some revisions to it are still being worked on in conjunction with my colleague from Louisiana, Senator LANDRIEU, and many other leaders in the Senate. But I will speak on this very important topic, and it has to do with meeting in a positive and responsible way our ongoing needs throughout all the coastal areas—not just Louisiana—for hurricane protection and other coastal needs.

Obviously, we have faced many challenges since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This is a responsible way to help meet those needs and to help future coastal needs of all coastal States and to do it in a way that we can afford and that we can build into the budget. Rather than having to come back here every 2 months, every 3 months for additional appropriations, wouldn't it be far better to have a stable revenue source that can help us meet these needs directly? The biggest part of that stable revenue source is royalty share, getting our fair share of what we produce off our coasts in terms of offshore oil and gas.

This amendment is a first vital step in that direction because it would look to excess revenue, not anything built into the budget right now, but excess revenue in three areas to use for those vital purposes, not just for Louisiana

but for coastal needs and coastal States in general.

What are these three areas I am talking about? The first would be offshore energy production, future revenues that aren't built into the budget now. The second would be the Federal share of ANWR energy production, should we pass that and say yes to that in the near future. Of course, ANWR is the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The third would be DTV revenue that comes in above the current projections for those spectrum auctions.

Again, this is a vital first step that can get us on this path to self-sufficiency, to taking care of these crucial needs without constantly having to come here and look for direct Federal appropriations. We continue to work to perfect this amendment No. 3025 so it can gain support.

AMENDMENT NO. 3078

I formally call up amendment No. 3078, which is a separate amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. VITTER] proposes an amendment numbered 3078.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a reserve fund to prevent catastrophic loss)

On page 43, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

**SEC. 313. RESERVE FUND TO PREVENT CATASTROPHIC LOSS.**

If—

(1) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate reports a bill or joint resolution, or if an amendment is offered thereto, or if a conference report is submitted thereon, that increases investment in measures designed to prevent catastrophic flood and hurricane damage in coastal areas such that—

(A) the measures, when completed, will likely decrease future expenditures from the Disaster Relief Fund;

(B) the increases do not exceed \$10,000,000,000; and

(C) the measures are certified by the President as likely to prevent loss of life and property; and

(2) that Committee is within its allocation as provided under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 633(a));

the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget of the Senate may make the appropriate adjustments in the allocations and aggregates to the extent that such legislation would not increase the deficit for the fiscal year 2007 and for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, very quickly, this is a separate amendment that would give us flexibility in the context of the budget to account for future levy and hurricane protection projects should the Environment and Public Works Committee pass out a bill that authorizes these important

projects. It builds flexibility into the budget through a reserve fund without busting the budget, without doing any harm to the budget numbers and the overall caps. I look forward to my colleagues' support of this flexibility.

I yield the remainder of my time.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank the two Senators from Louisiana, especially Senator LANDRIEU, for working with her colleague Senator VITTER on this important amendment for their home State that has obviously been so badly damaged by Hurricane Katrina. I thank Senator LANDRIEU and Senator VITTER for working together in a bipartisan way to begin to rebuild additional resources as their State has been so hard hit.

I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator. He and the Senator from New Hampshire have done a fine job leading us through this budget. It is a tough instrument, of course, to negotiate.

Senator VITTER and I are pleased to come to the floor to speak about three particular amendments that will be offered later in the day. One that will be discussed in more detail is a small business amendment. He and I serve together on the Small Business Committee. It has become apparent to us there are many issues regarding the slowness in which the applications our small businesses are putting in but not getting their due checks based on the current law fast enough to get them re-established. So we will be offering an amendment on a small business issue which I will be cosponsoring with him later.

These two issues we are speaking about this morning on levees are an authorization for an additional \$10 billion through the committee Senator VITTER serves on to try to get the authorization levels up. Mr. President, as you know, because you just visited our great State, any number of levy projects throughout all of south Louisiana, from southwest to southeast, from the metropolitan area of New Orleans to the metropolitan area of Thibodaux, Houma, Lake Charles, and rural areas of Cameron and Vermilion Parish, all are short of the levy systems they need to protect themselves and are short of money to our coastal restoration efforts that serve as the first barrier against storms such as Rita and Katrina.

So the second amendment I hope our colleagues will consider is a \$10 billion authorization increase in one of the committees Senator VITTER serves on, EPW. A critical third amendment we will discuss later when the details are worked out is a gulf coast recovery fund. That fund will take some additional revenues flowing into the Treasury from additional offshore oil and gas revenues, not specified to any particular place in the gulf, but of course the ANWR revenues and some others that may be coming in if this resolu-

tion passes, to support direct funding, coastal impact assistance to the Gulf Coast States: Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana. The Gulf Coast States that serve as America's only energy coast have been devastated by these two storms. Some smart investments now will save us billions of dollars down the road.

Of course, we say from Louisiana and the gulf coast, if it weren't for our Gulf Coast States, we wouldn't even be able to access the great mineral revenues off our shores, right off the southern shore of the United States. So I am pleased to join with my colleague and work through the better part of today on these three amendments.

Then at an additional time later on, with the leadership's go-ahead, we will also hopefully be discussing a defense amendment very important to the Barksdale Air Force Base in Shreveport.

I thank my colleagues for their generosity, and I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I very much thank the Senator.

I see the Senator from Michigan is on the floor. Would the Senator from Michigan be prepared to present her amendment?

Ms. STABENOW. Yes.

Mr. CONRAD. I yield 3 minutes—is that sufficient time?

Ms. STABENOW. Yes.

Mr. CONRAD. I yield 3 minutes to the Senator from Michigan, and then next on our side will be Senator AKAKA, and then I think Senator COLLINS is in line, and then Senator LINCOLN.

Senator STABENOW.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Ms. STABENOW. Thank you, Senator CONRAD. Again, thank you for your leadership on the Budget Committee.

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

Ms. STABENOW. Yes.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, if it is agreeable to the chairman, I have a report I am supposed to do at the luncheon that is going on. If I could give the time at this point to people, would that be appropriate?

Mr. GREGG. I would suggest that we reach a unanimous consent agreement that on the list you identified, everybody be granted 5 minutes.

Mr. CONRAD. Could we do 4 minutes? Because we have a bit of a time constraint, could we do 4 minutes?

Ms. STABENOW. If I might ask, are we asking for 2 minutes per side?

Mr. CONRAD. No. It would be 4 minutes for each of the Senators.

Mr. GREGG. And that will come off your time when the Democratic Members make offers, and when we make offers, it will come off of our time.

Mr. CONRAD. Very well.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3141

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Ms. STABENOW] proposes an amendment numbered 3141.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide an assured stream of funding for veteran's health care that will take into account the annual changes in the veterans' population and inflation to be paid for by restoring the pre-2001 top rate for income over \$1 million, closing corporate tax loopholes and delaying tax cuts for the wealthy)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$6,900,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$16,500,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$22,200,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$27,000,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by \$31,600,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$6,900,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$16,500,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$22,200,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$27,000,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$31,600,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$6,900,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, increase the amount by \$16,500,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$22,200,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, increase the amount by \$27,000,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, increase the amount by \$31,600,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$6,900,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$16,500,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$22,200,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$27,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$31,600,000,000.

On page 23, line 24, increase the amount by \$6,900,000,000.

On page 23, line 25, increase the amount by \$6,900,000,000.

On page 24, line 3, increase the amount by \$16,500,000,000.

On page 24, line 4, increase the amount by \$16,500,000,000.

On page 24, line 7, increase the amount by \$22,200,000,000.

On page 24, line 8, increase the amount by \$22,200,000,000.

On page 24, line 11, increase the amount by \$27,000,000,000.

On page 24, line 12, increase the amount by \$27,000,000,000.

On page 24, line 15, increase the amount by \$31,600,000,000.

On page 24, line 16, increase the amount by \$31,600,000,000.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to offer an amendment to make veterans health care funding assured and mandatory.

Real security means supporting our troops abroad and making sure they

have the body armor and the equipment they need, but it also means supporting them when they come home. It means giving our current and our future veterans the health care they need and deserve.

The amendment I am offering today provides full funding for veterans medical care to ensure that the VA has the resources necessary to provide quality health care in a timely manner to our Nation's sick and disabled veterans.

The problem we face today is that resources for veterans health care are falling behind demand, and we know this because every year we are trying to address the shortfall.

In 1993, there were about 2.5 million veterans in the VA health care system. Today there are more than 7 million veterans enrolled in the system, over half of whom receive care on a regular basis.

Despite the 160-percent increase in patients over the last decade, the VA has received an average of only a 5-percent increase in appropriations during this administration. Some of my colleagues will say this amendment isn't necessary because there have been funding increases over the last several years. They also say we do not need to create another entitlement program. Over the last 2 years, we have seen a 500-percent increase in the number of veterans seeking care from the VA who have been serving in Iraq and serving in Afghanistan. But the administration's budget projects that the VA will treat 109,191 veterans next year, and this falls over 35,000 veterans short of the number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans the VA currently treats. So we see a 500-percent increase in the number of veterans coming home after serving us bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan, and yet their budget assumes that there are 35,000 fewer—fewer than last year—fewer Iraq and Afghanistan veterans we are going to treat next year. These numbers do not make sense.

Last year's budget is also a case study on why we need to have assured funding for VA health care. In total, Congress provided an additional \$3 billion for veterans health care because the administration grossly miscalculated the need for veterans health care.

We need to finally move this into a category where every year those veterans coming home who need health care will know that the dollars are there based on their eligibility, based on their service, based on their need—not based on a debate on the floor in the Congress about how much we are willing to spend to address their health care needs. This should not be a year-to-year debate and commitment; this should be an assured commitment that the dollars will be there. Just as they are for Medicare, for Medicaid, our veterans ought to know that every year, their funding for critical health care services will be assured.

Today's soldiers are tomorrow's veterans. America has made a promise to

these brave men and women to provide them with the care they need—not based on a debate on how much we want to spend or calculations year to year on the numbers that folks think may or may not seek care. This ought to be about making sure that every one of our brave men and women coming home, whether it is from the current wars or whether it is our World War II vets or any other war or conflict in which our soldiers have been serving—when they need health care as veterans, we will fulfill our promises to make sure it is there for them.

I urge my colleagues to support this very important amendment, supported by all of the major veterans organizations in this country. It is time to get this done and get it done right.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

AMENDMENT NO. 3071

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask that the pending amendment be set aside, and I call up my amendment, No. 3071, and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA], for himself, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DODD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. LANDRIEU, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. SALAZAR, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KOHL, proposes an amendment numbered 3071.

Mr. AKAKA. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase funding for Title I grants and reduce debt by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$180,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$4,860,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$840,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$120,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$180,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$4,860,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$840,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$120,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$90,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$2,430,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$420,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$60,000,000.

On page 5, line 19, increase the amount by \$90,000,000.

On page 5, line 21, increase the amount by \$2,430,000,000.

On page 5, line 23, increase the amount by \$420,000,000.

On page 5, line 25, increase the amount by \$60,000,000.

On page 6, line 8, decrease the amount by \$90,000,000.

On page 6, line 10, decrease the amount by \$2,520,000,000.

On page 6, line 12, decrease the amount by \$2,940,000,000.

On page 6, line 14, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 16, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 6, line 22, decrease the amount by \$90,000,000.

On page 6, line 24, decrease the amount by \$2,520,000,000.

On page 7, line 2, decrease the amount by \$2,940,000,000.

On page 7, line 4, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 7, line 6, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 18, line 24, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 18, line 25, increase the amount by \$90,000,000.

On page 19, line 4, increase the amount by \$2,430,000,000.

On page 19, line 8, increase the amount by \$420,000,000.

On page 19, line 12, increase the amount by \$60,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$90,000,000.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I thank the managers of this bill for accommodating this amendment. I am very grateful.

I rise with Senators CLINTON, KENNEDY, BINGAMAN, DODD, MENENDEZ, KERRY, LIEBERMAN, CANTWELL, SCHUMER, LANDRIEU, MIKULSKI, SALAZAR, LINCOLN, DURBIN, and KOHL to offer an amendment to the FY 2007 Budget Resolution to restore Title I funding within the No Child Left Behind Act. Certainly, NCLB has come under fire as schools across the country struggle to comply with its requirements, particularly for higher student test scores and teacher qualifications. My colleagues and I have gone on record several times about what we need to do to change the NCLB, to respond to the urgent concerns and needs in all of our communities, including those in my state of Hawaii.

However, today, we are not talking about deficiencies in the Act, but a shortfall in its funding, and about misplaced budget priorities. This budget resolution is similar to the President's budget in its stated priorities. It has debt-financed tax cuts that largely benefit the well-off and special interests. It presents a five year plan, which does not recognize the significant negative impact on revenues that tax cuts will have beyond the next five years. It proposes \$14 billion in net mandatory spending cuts. It also omits war costs beyond 2007. We somewhat improved the measure by increasing veterans and defense funding, even if I do not fully agree with the budget gimmick that was used to offset these increases.

However, if we pass this budget as is, we fail our students and teachers once again by underfunding education. The President's FY 2007 budget proposed

the largest cut to federal education funding in the Education Department's 26-year history, a \$2.1 billion reduction. As approved by the Budget Committee, the budget resolution did not do much better, including the same total amount for discretionary spending, with no guarantee that education would be increased. We must not underfund an area that represents the future of this country. As we debate the need to remain competitive in the world, and worry about other countries overtaking us in producing scientists, engineers, and professionals in other areas important to our industries and national security, we cannot let education take the hit.

The Title I funding shortfall, the amount below authorized levels, is \$12.3 billion for FY 2007. This increases the cumulative Title I shortfall since NCLB's enactment to \$43.7 billion. Actual funding has barely increased since 2002, which continued to grow the gap between authorized and actual funding. The rightful amount in FY 2007 for Title I, as authorized, should be \$25 billion. This budget resolution puts the amount at \$12.7 billion.

Mr. President, we are being realistic with our amendment, given our current budgetary climate. We are asking for a modest, responsible increase of almost \$3 billion, which is what the President's initial budget requests sought to do. Let me underscore that point—our amendment would do what the President said he wanted to do in previous years, which is to secure an additional \$4 billion in funding—\$1 billion annually—since FY 2004. Actual increases since then add up to just over \$1 billion. In addition, the amendment is fully offset by closing abusive corporate tax loopholes.

If we don't pass our amendment, Mr. President, 3.7 million students will not be served by the Title I program. A total of 29 states stand to lose Title I funding, according to the Department of Education, including Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Another 7 states will be level-funded, including Alaska, Delaware, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming.

The remaining states that gain overall funding will still have many districts—maybe even a majority of those districts—lose funding. In addition, we must not forget history—even if states would gain this year, they likely lost in a previous year. My state of Hawaii is in this last category, for example, having received \$47.5 million in FY 2005, and more than a million dollars less in FY 2006 including across-the-board cuts, at about \$46.4 million.

To extend this last point further, many states will have cuts a second

year in a row, and some would be cut for four or even five years in a row. Twenty-nine states will receive less Title I money than they did two years ago in FY 2005: Alaska, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Fifteen states will receive less Title I money than they did three years ago in FY 2004: California, Connecticut, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Nine states will receive less Title I money than they did 4 years ago in FY 2003: Connecticut, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, and North Dakota.

Three states will receive less Title I money than they did 5 years ago in FY 2002, which is less than they got before NCLB: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota.

The District of Columbia will receive less money than it did in FY 2004 or FY 2005.

The Northern Mariana Islands will receive less Title I money in FY 2007 than it had received in any of the years since the NCLB's enactment.

Let me remind my colleagues who we are hurting by failing to adequately fund Title I. This comprehensive education program focuses help on disadvantaged children—those from lower-income families. Title I helps these students meet state and local academic standards, with scientifically-proven instructional support, in basic subjects such as reading, language arts, and mathematics. Title I provides support through guidance, health, nutrition, and social services. It also provides resources for comprehensive school-wide planning, professional development, curriculum development, parental involvement, and acquisition of instructional materials and equipment. Now some may say that federal assistance does not help all schools, only Title I schools, but that is not true—the statewide accountability system required under Title I applies to all public schools. So this program, this central piece of the NCLB, works to meet urgent needs in all of public education.

Students, school faculty and staff, parents, and education administrators have been trying, mightily in some cases, to meet the challenges posed by NCLB and raise student academic achievement. We need to do this—to ensure that our citizens have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed when they leave school and enter the workforce or other pursuits. However, this is very difficult to do if they lack adequate funding.

I can give you concrete examples of how our schools are suffering that I

just heard of this week, when I met with a representative of Hawaii's PTSA, our affiliate of national PTA. Some students in Hawaii are having bread and water for lunch. Why? Because the schools don't have enough resources to ensure that parents know how to apply for reduced and free lunch. Parents who have raised funds to install air conditioners in hot classrooms, to allow students and teachers to concentrate on learning, cannot do so because the education system cannot afford the additional electricity costs. Students are not receiving extra help through tutoring in reading and math because funds are needed for other services that are deemed essential. Hawaii's schools are suffering because they need a greater infusion of resources, and we need to help them from the federal level, as we said we would when we approved the NCLB.

Our schools will continue working to serve our kids and achieving the biggest bang for the buck, which is what education has been forced to do all along. I know this to my core, because I know what it's like to be in the shoes of those in education. I spent nearly two decades in education. I taught in several of Hawaii's elementary, middle, and high schools. Public and private. In the classroom, in music rooms, and in labs. In administration—as a vice principal and a principal. As a representative of Hawaii's principals to a national organization. And as a statewide administrator for the Hawaii Department of Education for the Model Cities program. I know what it's like to stretch the education dollar. However, we must stop being behind the curve with education funding.

Education funding must be a given, not just a goal. Our Title I amendment goes partway toward making that happen, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

The American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association, Council of State School Officers, and other education organizations support this increase for Title I. I ask unanimous consent that letters of support from the AFT and NEA be printed in the RECORD.

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

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TEACHERS,  
Washington, DC, March 15, 2006.  
Office of the Hon. DANIEL K. AKAKA,  
Hart Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR AKAKA: On behalf of the more than 1.3 million members of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), I am writing in support of your Title I amendment to the fiscal year (FY) 2007 budget resolution.

Knowing that the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) could only be achieved with accountability and dedicated resources, Congress set a funding authorization for the program each year.

In the three years following NCLB's passage, K-12 education programs received average annual increases of \$5 billion. However, this steady growth has stalled, as witnessed

in the past two appropriations bills (FY 2005 and FY 06). Currently, the gap between authorized and appropriated funds for Title I from FY 02 through FY 06 is \$40.3 billion. In addition, the president's budget provides no increase this year for Title I. Given inflation, this would amount to a cut in many districts. It would have a devastating effect on schools that educate large numbers of poor and minority students.

It would also exacerbate a problem that has occurred over the past few years as a result of chronic underfunding. The U.S. Education Department projects that 29 states will lose Title I funding and seven states will be level-funded in FY 07 if the president's budget request is enacted. The remaining states, those that gain funding overall, will see many of their individual school districts—possibly most of them—lose funding. Also, any gains will not make up for funding shortfalls since NCLB's enactment.

Your amendment seeks a relatively modest increase to help us move a step closer toward fully funding Title I. President Bush has acknowledged the need to increase Title I funding by \$1 billion in FY 2004 and FY 2005, although actual increases over the past four years have amounted to much less.

At a time when schools and teachers are working hard to meet the requirements of NCLB, this amendment will be a boost for students, teachers, and school districts nationwide. Ensuring that all children have highly qualified teachers and that struggling schools have the tools to improve can't be done on the cheap. Research indicates that recruiting highly qualified teachers for hard-to-staff schools requires improving the physical plant, providing up-to-date textbooks and other learning resources, implementing proven curricula, attracting and retaining exemplary administrative staff and providing professional development and financial resources for teachers.

The AFT applauds you and your colleagues for making education a top priority in this budget. Securing these resources for the upcoming school year is critical to our collective efforts to support and improve our nation's public schools.

Sincerely,

KRISTOR W. COWAN,  
Director, Legislation Department.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC, March 16, 2006.  
U.S. SENATE,  
Washington, DC

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the National Education Association's (NEA) 2.8 million members, we would like to express our support for an amendment to be offered by Senator Akaka (D-HI) to the proposed fy07 budget resolution that would allow for an increase of \$3 billion for Title I. This amendment would build on the important foundation offered by the just-passed Specter-Harkin amendment, which would replenish key education and health programs recently cut.

The Administration has called Title I the cornerstone of No Child Left Behind. The program provides invaluable funds to help close achievement gaps and maximize student learning. It funds supplemental programs to enable educationally disadvantaged students, particularly those attending schools in high-poverty areas, to meet challenging academic standards. It also pays the salaries of teachers and paraprofessionals, funds pre-K, after-school, and summer school programs, and provides for professional development for teachers and paraprofessionals.

Unfortunately, Title I continues to be significantly underfunded, denying too many eligible students the full services they need to succeed. The budget proposal before the Sen-

ate would shortchange Title I by \$12.3 billion below the amount authorized in the No Child Left Behind Act. If enacted as proposed, the budget will reduce Title I funding for 29 states and will flat-fund seven additional states. As a result, the budget would deny essential Title I services to some 3.7 million children.

The Akaka amendment would allow for a relatively modest \$3 billion increase for Title I, offset by closing abusive corporate tax loopholes. In so doing, it would allow for an important step in the right direction for this critical program.

Again, we urge your support for this important amendment.

Sincerely,

DIANE SHUST,  
Director of Govern-  
ment Relations.

RANDALL MOODY,  
Manager of Federal  
Policy and Politics.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is not a sufficient second.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I yield my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

AMENDMENT NO. 3066

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3066, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], for herself and Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. MENENDEZ, proposes an amendment numbered 3066.

Ms. COLLINS. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure that first responder and state and local government grant programs key to our Nation's homeland security are funded at no less than FY 2006 levels and to provide increases for port security, first responder programs, rail/transit security, and National Response Plan Training, offset by discretionary spending reductions)

On page 16, line 21, increase the amount by \$4,000,000.

On page 16, line 22, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 17, line 1, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 17, line 22, increase the amount by \$488,000,000.

On page 17, line 23, increase the amount by \$164,000,000.

On page 18, line 3, increase the amount by \$227,000,000.

On page 18, line 7, increase the amount by \$75,000,000.

On page 18, line 11, increase the amount by \$22,000,000.

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$494,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by \$171,000,000.

On page 25, line 4, increase the amount by \$158,000,000.

On page 25, line 8, increase the amount by \$146,000,000.

On page 25, line 12, increase the amount by \$19,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$986,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$338,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$386,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$221,000,000.

On page 28, line 8, decrease the amount by \$41,000,000.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment, which is cosponsored by my colleague from Connecticut, Senator LIEBERMAN—we would like to add as additional cosponsors Senators DEWINE, SNOWE, KENNEDY, and MENENDEZ.

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

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of an amendment offered by Senator COLLINS and myself to the Fiscal Year 2007 budget resolution to strengthen our homeland security efforts—particularly the ability of first responders to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks or catastrophic natural disasters.

I have also filed an amendment that would increase the President's Government-wide homeland security budget by \$8 billion—an amount still far below what the experts tell us we need to be as safe as we should be. I think the Nation would be best served by a healthier investment in homeland security, but I am happy to join with Senator COLLINS to offer this smaller \$986 million proposal as a way to ensure support for first responders; rail, transit, port and cargo security, Coast Guard research and development, and assorted other programs.

September 11, 2001, changed our lives forever. We face new and dangerous threats from our enemies that we must be prepared to deal with. Furthermore, the Federal response to Hurricane Katrina proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that we are still a Nation unprepared for catastrophe. Yet, the Bush administration seems to have turned its back on the lessons of September 11, 2001, and of August 29, 2005, the day Hurricane Katrina made landfall. And this budget resolution, which largely reflects the President's budget proposal, does nothing to indicate otherwise.

We know our first responders lack the training, equipment, and frequently the manpower they need to do their jobs. Most don't even have the basic capability to communicate with one another across jurisdictional and service lines, and Hurricane Katrina demonstrated that sometimes during a major catastrophe they can't communicate at all.

Yet, the President's fiscal year 2007 budget proposal eliminates a number of first responder programs and cuts others, leaving those on the frontlines of the war against terror or on the frontlines of a hurricane, struggling to make due with less. Our amendment would add \$860 million to restore and expand first responder programs.

We would restore \$400 million for the Law Enforcement Terrorist Prevention Program, which the administration would totally eliminate; \$251 million for the FIRE grants, which provide training and equipment to firefighters; \$110 million to restore the SAFER Act, which helps recruit, hire and train local firefighters and which the administration would eliminate; \$30 million for the Metropolitan Medical Response System which helps prepare local health officials for mass casualties; and \$15 million for emergency preparedness grants. We would also add \$67 million to the primary homeland security grants for States.

After first responders, port security would get the second highest amount of funding under our amendment—for a total of \$427 million for port security. Perhaps one of the unintended consequences of the Dubai Ports World fracas was that it underscored the need for better port security. Ninety-five percent of all our trade flows through our ports, and a terrorist event at one could cause economic havoc. Security experts have also warned that WMD would most likely be smuggled into the country in a shipping container.

Our amendment would commit to strengthening port security by reallocating funding for the Targeted Infrastructure Protection Program to ensure a dedicated \$300 million for port security grants. Another \$2 million would be set aside to audit the grants to ensure the money is being used properly and efficiently.

Furthermore, we would provide \$20 million for additional staff for the C-TPAT program—which permits expedited shipping for known companies that increase their shipping security. Currently, there are just 80 people responsible for overseeing 10,000 applications to the program. We would include \$105 million for cutting-edge imaging inspection equipment for better cargo security and \$4 million the administration cut from the Coast Guard's R&D program.

Because we know our rail and transit system is wide open, vulnerable, and appealing to terrorists, and because the President's budget eliminates rail and transit grants, we would dedicate \$200 million specifically for rail and transit security grants, just as we did for port security grants. Fourteen million Americans ride mass transit each weekday, more than 16 times the number of daily trips taken by Americans on domestic airlines. Let's not fail to learn the lessons of attacks on the London, Madrid, Moscow, Tokyo, and Israeli rail and transit systems.

Our enemies are ruthless and choose their own battlefields in the communities where we live and work. Nature, too, can be ruthless and will strike in unpredictable ways year after year. We must have first responders who are trained and equipped not just to prepare for and respond to catastrophes but to work to prevent them, as well. We worked with a real sense of urgency

after September 11, 2001, to secure our Nation. We must summon that same sense of urgency now to close the security gaps that remain. I wish there was a cheap way to do that. But there isn't. It takes money—more money than the administration's budget offers and more money than the majority's budget resolution we're debating this week offers. I urge my colleagues to support these modest proposals so that we can make additional headway toward our goal of being better able to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the terrorist attacks and natural disasters that are sure to come.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, the Collins-Lieberman amendment would provide \$986 million to help prevent terrorist attacks and to enable us to respond more effectively if one does occur. It enjoys the support of a wide range of first responder groups, representing our police and our firefighters.

Our amendment has two components. First, it restores funding to the fiscal year 2006 levels for key grant programs that assist first responders, as well as State and local governments. These are such programs as the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, the Metropolitan Medical Response System, emergency management performance grants, the FIRE Act, and SAFER programs.

As this chart prepared by the Congressional Research Service indicates, the aggregate difference between the fiscal year 2006 appropriated amount and the proposed budget request for this year is \$395 million. Our amendment ensures that none of the programs listed on this chart would be funded at any less than the level that was appropriated for fiscal year 2006.

Last year, for example, Congress appropriated \$550 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program, a key source of assistance to State and local governments and first responders. This level, I point out, was only half of the fiscal year 2005 enacted level. Communities use these funds for first responder preparation activities such as emergency planning, risk assessments, mutual aid agreements, equipment, training, and exercises.

It is important to realize that the biggest single expenditure of these funds is the purchase of interoperable communications equipment. Therefore, a vote for our amendment is a vote to increase funding for interoperable communications equipment for first responders.

Under the Collins-Lieberman amendment, we would also provide an additional \$150 million for the State Homeland Security Grant Program to create a better national response system that will operate more smoothly at the Federal, State, and local level. Our committee's investigation into the preparedness for and response to Hurricane Katrina clearly demonstrated inadequate response and deficiencies in our ability to respond effectively to the

catastrophic events. This is not the time to reduce the Federal Government's commitment to national preparedness.

The budget also shortchanges first responders in other programs, such as the FIRE Act and the SAFER grants. We would take care of that as well as the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, one of the programs that focuses on preventing terrorist attacks.

Another important aspect of the Collins-Lieberman amendment deals with port security grants. Unfortunately, the administration's budget does not dedicate a separate funding stream for port security. Instead, it folds port security in with all other transportation and critical infrastructure, thus providing no assurance at all that any money will be provided to strengthen the security of our ports. The estimates are, from the ports administrators, that we need to have \$400 million for port security grant funding. Because of budget constraints we don't go that far, but we do include dedicated funding, \$300 million in port security grant funding. We have proposed an increase to move the funding level to meeting the identified needs and to help us improve the security of our ports.

There are so many needs, but we have worked very hard to keep the cost of our amendment down. It is fully offset. I hope our colleagues will support this proposal. It also provides funding for a number of other critical infrastructure needs, such as our Nation's rail and transit systems.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and send a message to our first responders that they are a top priority. The additional funding provided by the Collins-Lieberman amendment is an investment we simply must make to strengthen our ability to prevent, detect, and if necessary respond to attacks on our homeland.

I urge support for the amendment, and I yield the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I compliment our colleague from Maine for her conscientious efforts, as well as her fiscally responsible efforts. I ask unanimous consent to add my name to her list of cosponsors and again tell her how much we appreciate all of the many issues that have landed in her lap this year and what an incredible job she has done, working with Senator LIEBERMAN to address those. I ask unanimous consent to add my name as a cosponsor, please.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3047

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3047.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mrs. LINCOLN], for herself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. CLINTON, proposes an amendment numbered 3047.

Mrs. LINCOLN. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

To provide \$7.8 billion over two years to fund refundable tax credits targeted to small businesses with up to 100 employees so that they may help purchase group health insurance for their low-wage workers, paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$4,500,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$3,300,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$4,500,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$3,300,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$4,500,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, increase the amount by \$3,300,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$4,500,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$3,300,000,000.

On page 19, line 24, increase the amount by \$4,500,000,000.

On page 19, line 25, increase the amount by \$4,500,000,000.

On page 20, line 3, increase the amount by \$3,300,000,000.

On page 20, line 4, increase the amount by \$3,300,000,000.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I cannot imagine that the rest of my colleagues in this body are not hearing the same thing I hear, as I travel back each week to Arkansas, from my constituents. Always in the top three issues they bring up in the most passionate of ways happens to be how in the world are we in this Nation going to deal with the number of uninsured in this country, particularly in the small business arena?

Those Americans who are working hard, those trying to provide for their families, those keeping the framework and the foundation of our small communities together, those working in small businesses, how are we going to do a better job in this body in helping to provide health insurance for those who are uninsured and their families?

I rise today with my good friend Senator DURBIN to propose an amendment to the budget resolution to provide \$7.8 billion over 2 years to fund refundable tax credits targeted to small businesses with up to 100 employees so they may help purchase group health insurance for their low-wage workers.

I ask unanimous consent to add Senators CLINTON, KOHL, and CANTWELL as cosponsors of my amendment, and to take this opportunity as well to note that our amendment is endorsed by the National Association of Business Owners and the Small Business Majority.

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

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, my amendment would dedicate funding to help small businesses that are struggling to provide health insurance to their employees, and would do so in a way that is fiscally responsible. My amendment is completely offset by

closing corporate tax loopholes that have been agreed upon by the Finance Committee as well as by this entire body, the Senate. These are ways in which we can make fiscally responsible decisions in closing loopholes that exist and pay for something that is absolutely vital to working families.

Unfortunately, the budget resolution before us doesn't specify either an amount to promote expanding health insurance coverage for employees of small businesses or a way to pay for it, which leads me to believe—as do other Americans out there listening to this debate—that this is simply a priority for us.

We cannot continue to act as if this issue doesn't exist. The President has mentioned it year upon year in his State of the Union Addresses, and yet we are seeing increases by the millions of individuals who are finding themselves uninsured. There are nearly 46 million Americans currently without health insurance, including 456,000 Arkansans in my home State of Arkansas. Twenty percent of working-age adults are uninsured. These are people who are working and playing by the rules to provide for their families. This number is so alarming to me that addressing this problem should be a national priority.

Those who lack health insurance don't get access to timely and appropriate health care. They have less access to important screenings and state-of-the-art technology and prescription drugs. Working families need our help with this problem—and they need it now.

Senator DURBIN and I have a bill to help small businesses afford health insurance, and a refundable tax credit to employers as an integral part of our proposal. Our responsible tax credit is targeted to help those who need it the most.

Low-wage workers and small businesses are significantly more likely to be uninsured than high-wage workers, and firms with a high proportion of low-wage workers are much less likely to offer insurance. Our tax credits are targeted to the firms and employees who need the most incentives to purchase health insurance coverage. Our tax credit goes to the employer because small employers believe offering health insurance has a positive impact on recruitment, retention, employees' attitude, performance, and health status.

The budget resolution fails to address this huge problem in our country. The budget is a blueprint, and it should clearly represent America's working families' needs and priorities. It is supposed to reflect what our choices will be when it comes time to spending the tax dollars of this country. This amendment is about priorities.

We must make a priority this growing number of uninsured in our country. They are working families, playing by the rules, trying desperately to contribute to their great Nation. One of

the things we can do is provide the employers the incentive they need to provide the kind of health insurance working families can use and need.

The underlying proposal Senator DURBIN and I have offered presents working families' ability to have the similar kind of health insurance that I and all of the Federal employees here have access to. What greater opportunity to provide greater choice at a lower cost. This is the tool that can make that happen. Providing a tax incentive to small businesses to be able to purchase and assist their employees—their low-wage workers—with the ability to engage in the insurance market and provide the ability to mitigate against their health care and their health care costs is absolutely essential, not just for the quality of life of working Americans but also think of what it does for our economy.

We have a great opportunity in this budget to set priorities that are important to the working families of this country. I urge my colleagues, let us come together and do something for our small businesses and working families—and do something now.

I ask my colleagues to support our amendment and look forward to the opportunity we have to do something about the escalating costs of health care and what it means to working families in this Nation.

I request the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

At the moment there is not a sufficient second.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, we will have no trouble getting a sufficient second.

Perhaps we could give a second to the yeas and nays asked for by the Senator from Arkansas at this time. There now appears to be a sufficient second.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask the Parliamentarian if he could give us a breakdown on the time remaining between now and 1:30.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority has 24 minutes 32 seconds, the minority has 15 minutes 6 seconds.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, we have calls out to two other offices of Members who indicated an interest in offering amendments in this time period.

As we have heard from the Parliamentarian, we only have 15 minutes left on our side. When we put in a quorum call, that time will be charged equally. I alert those Senators whose offices have been called that time is rapidly running through the hourglass. I hope very much those who have been called and who have asked for time will come. Time is rapidly evaporating.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I yield 2 additional minutes to the Senator from Arkansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3106

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague.

I come to the floor today to offer an amendment on behalf of rural America. If there is anything that has been consistent in this administration's budget, it has been that there has been more asked from rural America in terms of the burden of cuts that have happened and a disproportionate share of the labor-intensive ideas of how we are going to deal with incredible spending.

I offer this amendment on behalf of rural America. I thank Senators SALAZAR, PRYOR, HARKIN, and KOHL for joining me in this effort.

I am pleased to ask unanimous consent to add Senators DURBIN and SCHUMER as cosponsors.

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

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, our amendment would restore approximately \$2 billion in discretionary cuts proposed for programs administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in fiscal year 2007. To pay for these investments in rural America, our amendment would raise the discretionary cap by \$2 billion and offset these expenditures by closing corporate tax loopholes which have passed the Senate on numerous occasions.

The proposed discretionary cuts for USDA impact a variety of conservation, rural development, nutrition, and forestry programs that are vitally important to our communities across this great Nation.

Mr. President, you and all other Members of this Senate have rural areas in your States and know the difficult times they are going through. They do not have the tax base. They may not have the corporate citizens in those areas that help them build this economy. These programs are vital to them in terms of developing the kind of economy they want and can have. They are not asking to be a major metropolitan area. They are simply asking to be the best they can possibly be.

The discretionary spending would decline \$208 million in fiscal year 2007 in conservation. Rural development would see a decline of \$421 million less than in fiscal year 2007, and research would see a 14.6 percent reduction from the fiscal year 2006 appropriations.

I ask all of my colleagues, whether you represent a major metropolitan area or rural America, you know the fabric of this country depends on all of us. Please do not ask for a disproportionate share of rural America, and do not devastate the incredible advances they have already been able to make.

Let us help them grow with the rest of America in their great effort.

I urge my colleagues to support me in the WIC Program, the nutrition program, the conservation program, and all of the others that rural America depends on.

AMENDMENT NO. 3136, AS MODIFIED

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President I call up an amendment at the desk. It is a substitute on the energy amendment I offered earlier. I ask unanimous consent to modify my previous amendment.

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

The amendment is so modified.

The amendment (No. 3136), as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide a reserve fund for bold energy legislation that is deficit neutral)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**“SEC. . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR ENERGY LEGISLATION.**

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Budget may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that would reduce our nation's dependence on foreign sources of energy, expand production and use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles, promote renewable energy development, improve electricity transmission, encourage responsible development of domestic oil and natural gas resources, and reward conservation and efficiency, by the amounts provided in such legislation for that purpose, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit in fiscal year 2007 or over the total of the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011, and provided that the committee or committees of jurisdiction are within their 302(a) allocations.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair.

I ask the Parliamentarian to give us an update on the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority has 22 minutes 30 seconds, the minority has 9 minutes 5 seconds.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3106

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I call up my amendment numbered 3106 which I described to my colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mrs. LINCOLN], for herself, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. KOHL, proposes an amendment numbered 3106.

Mrs. LINCOLN. I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To restore the discretionary budget for the Department of Agriculture with an offset achieved by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$1,177,000,000.  
 On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$439,000,000.  
 On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$221,000,000.  
 On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$107,000,000.  
 On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by \$57,000,000.  
 On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$1,177,000,000.  
 On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$439,000,000.  
 On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$221,000,000.  
 On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$107,000,000.  
 On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$57,000,000.  
 On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$2,029,000,000.  
 On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$1,177,000,000.  
 On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$439,000,000.  
 On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$221,000,000.  
 On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$107,000,000.  
 On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$57,000,000.  
 On page 13, line 21, increase the amount by \$916,000,000.  
 On page 13, line 22, increase the amount by \$540,000,000.  
 On page 14, line 1, increase the amount by \$220,000,000.  
 On page 14, line 5, increase the amount by \$101,000,000.  
 On page 14, line 9, increase the amount by \$37,000,000.  
 On page 14, line 13, increase the amount by \$18,000,000.  
 On page 14, line 21, increase the amount by \$384,000,000.  
 On page 14, line 22, increase the amount by \$295,000,000.  
 On page 15, line 1, increase the amount by \$67,000,000.  
 On page 15, line 5, increase the amount by \$17,000,000.  
 On page 15, line 9, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.  
 On page 15, line 21, increase the amount by \$95,000,000.  
 On page 15, line 22, increase the amount by \$71,000,000.  
 On page 16, line 1, increase the amount by \$22,000,000.  
 On page 17, line 22, increase the amount by \$296,000,000.  
 On page 17, line 23, increase the amount by \$12,000,000.  
 On page 18, line 3, increase the amount by \$79,000,000.  
 On page 18, line 7, increase the amount by \$96,000,000.  
 On page 18, line 11, increase the amount by \$63,000,000.  
 On page 18, line 15, increase the amount by \$35,000,000.  
 On page 19, line 24, increase the amount by \$104,000,000.  
 On page 19, line 25, increase the amount by \$93,000,000.  
 On page 20, line 4, increase the amount by \$11,000,000.  
 On page 21, line 24, increase the amount by \$234,000,000.  
 On page 21, line 25, increase the amount by \$166,000,000.  
 On page 22, line 4, increase the amount by \$40,000,000.

On page 22, line 8, increase the amount by \$8,000,000.

On page 22, line 12, increase the amount by \$4,000,000.

On page 22, line 16, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by \$2,029,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,177,000,000.

Mrs. LINCOLN. I appreciate my colleagues' attention on this and encourage their support in supporting rural America.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VITTER). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3078, 3041, 3134, 3045, 3123, AND 3136, AS MODIFIED

Mr. GREGG. I ask unanimous consent the following amendments be agreed to en bloc: Amendment 3078, Senator VITTER and Senator LANDRIEU; amendment 3041, Senator BAUCUS; amendment 3134, Senators SNOWE, VITTER and KERRY; amendment 3045, Senator LAUTENBERG; amendment 3123, Senator COLEMAN; amendment 3136, as modified, Senator CONRAD.

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

The amendment (No. 3078) was agreed to.

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3041

(Purpose: To provide funding for an Internet Crimes Against Children task force in Montana)

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by "\$250,000".

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by "\$250,000".

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by "\$250,000".

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by "\$250,000".

AMENDMENT NO. 3134

(Purpose: To prevent an increase in interest rates paid by disaster victims, and to increase funding for the SBA's Microloans, Small Business Development Centers, HUBZones, and other small business development programs, and to offset the cost through a reduction in funds under function 920)

On page 15, line 21, increase the amount by \$130,000,000.

On page 15, line 22, increase the amount by \$92,000,000.

On page 16, line 1, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 16, line 5, increase the amount by \$7,000,000.

On page 16, line 9, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$130,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$92,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$7,000,000.

On page 28, line 8, decrease the amount by \$1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3045

(Purpose: To Add \$8 million to Function 300 (Environment and Natural Resources) for Highlands Land Acquisition. Fully offset with Function 920)

On page 13, line 21, increase the amount by \$8,000,000.

On page 13, line 22, increase the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 14, line 1, increase the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 14, line 5, increase the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 14, line 9, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 14, line 13, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$8,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 28, line 8, decrease the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 28, line 11, decrease the amount by \$1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3123

(Purpose: To increase funding to fully fund the Clean Coal Power Initiative)

On page 12, line 21, increase the amount by \$200,000,000.

On page 12, line 22, increase the amount by \$200,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$200,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, increase the amount by \$200,000,000.

The amendment (No. 3136), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am deeply disappointed that this budget resolution assumes deep cuts and unprecedented fees for the Small Business Administration, the SBA. The administration's request of \$624 million is insufficient to meet the needs of small businesses in this country that need access to capital, counseling, and Federal contracts. By the SBA's own calculation, the request is \$18 million less than what was available to the Agency last year when congressional initiatives and disaster supplementals are excluded. If this budget is adopted, the Agency will have been cut more than 37 percent since 2001. In context, that means it will have suffered the largest cuts of all 24 Federal agencies.

To address this shortfall, I introduced S.A. 3072 to increase SBA's fiscal year 2007 budget of \$624 million by \$151 million, for a total of \$775 million. The amendment would have paid for this increased spending by closing abusive corporate tax loopholes and would, among other things, have prevented the administration from increasing the cost of disaster loans, from imposing a new fee on SBA's largest loan and venture capital programs, from eliminating the SBA's microloan programs, and from weakening business assistance to women, minorities, veterans, Native Americans, and those trying to cut through redtape to contract with the Federal Government.

This budget resolution comes after 5 years of drastic budget cuts which have

eroded SBA's core programs and left the Agency with one of the worst morale problems in the Federal Government. SBA's largest lending program, the 7(a) program, is now more expensive than ever for small business borrowers and lenders, and the administration is proposing to add new "administrative fees" for larger 7(a) loans, 504 loans, and SBIC or venture capital deals. These fees are the first time the SBA has attempted to pass along administrative costs to lenders and small business borrowers, but the administration is pushing for them because they will generate \$7 million in savings. We are told that some 7(a) borrowers will pay \$625 more per loan, some 504 borrowers will pay \$1,625 per loan, and the majority of companies that get an SBIC investment will pay \$45,000 more. This is in addition to the excessive fees these small business borrowers already pay to cover the loan subsidy cost. This would set a bad precedent. To prevent the administration from imposing a new fee on small business borrowers, my amendment provided \$7 million to the SBA's budget for next year to offset this proposal.

Deep budget cuts for SBA have also meant less transparency and accountability when it comes to the oversight of small business contracting. After pressure from our Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, the SBA hired additional procurement center representatives, PCRs—the Government officials responsible for monitoring the bundling of large contracts and for helping small businesses cut through redtape to compete for Federal contracts—now bringing the number of PCRs nationwide up to 58. But many of these are not full-time PCRs. To avoid further reports of contracting abuses, large businesses receiving small business contracts, and Federal agencies missing their small business goals, my amendment provided \$10 million for 100 additional PCRs to ensure robust contracting oversight throughout the Nation.

For the fifth year in a row, this budget continues on the path of providing unrealistic funding by cutting critical programs, such as the Small Business Development Centers or SBDCs, Women's Business Centers and SCORE, forcing SBA's counseling partners to spend fewer hours with clients because the Federal matching grant isn't keeping pace with inflation or demand. Despite the budget's failure to account for inflation costs, these programs continue to play an integral role in helping entrepreneurs from underrepresented communities. These cuts, when combined with 5 years of budget cuts for the SBA as a whole, would leave the SBA ill-prepared to meet the demands of the growing entrepreneurial sector. I strongly oppose flat funding these resources for small businesses and so proposed an additional \$23 million in my amendment to bring Small Business Development Centers from the outdated \$87.1 funding level to \$110 mil-

lion, proposed \$4.95 million to bring SCORE funding to \$7 million, and \$4.7 million to bring the Women's Business Centers to a level of \$16.5 million.

All of this pales in comparison to the mismanagement of the response to recovery of the gulf coast region. The SBA's disaster loan program, essential to the recovery of business owners, homeowners, and renters after a disaster, almost ran out of money twice in February. Instead of getting their fiscal house in order like every American family must do, the President now proposes to raise the cost of disaster loans and no longer guarantee our most vulnerable borrowers fixed interest rates. Although they could still have up to 30 years to pay off a loan, if they don't pay it off in 5 years, the interest rate will go up. Instead of telling us how this will help disaster victims, we are told this will save the SBA an estimated \$41 million. We should not be saving money on the backs of disaster victims. Instead, we should help them to rebuild their homes and businesses. To prevent raising disaster loan interest rates, my amendment provided \$41 million to the SBA's budget for next year.

The \$151 million in my amendment would have provided real money to our appropriators and to small business programs in desperate need of funding. Unfortunately, this amendment did not garner bipartisan support. While I am disappointed with this outcome, I am pleased that we were able to work out a bipartisan compromise with Senator SNOWE, the chair of the Small Business Committee. Our compromise, S.A. 3134, would increase the SBA fiscal year 2007 budget by \$130 million, and although it would not add any additional funds to the budget resolution, it is a bipartisan effort to address many of the issues that my amendment 3072 attempted to address. There is bipartisan support for the 7(j) technical assistance program and the HUBZONE Program, which Senator BOND from Missouri worked hard to put in place and I joined with him in cosponsoring it when he was chairman for SBDCs and SCORE and Women's Business Centers; for the Microloan Program and microloan technical assistance, both of which the President has tried to eliminate for several years now. We all support U.S. Export Assistance Centers and Veterans Business Development, Small Business Innovation Research, and Small Business Technology Transfer Program. While I would have liked to have seen higher funding levels for the PRIME and New Markets Venture Capital Program, I am glad that our amendment reflects continued funding for these vital programs. We made a strong bipartisan statement that minority lending numbers must be increased, with about \$1 million more toward Native-American outreach. And we agreed to reject the proposals to raise the cost of disaster loans and to impose a new fee on the lending and venture capital programs. Overall,

amendment 3134 is sending an important signal to all that there is broad bipartisan support to increase funding for these vital small business programs.

Mr. President, I thank my colleagues, Senators LANDRIEU, LIEBERMAN, LEVIN, NELSON of Florida, VITTER, and COLEMAN for joining us to cosponsor this amendment, the entire Senate for agreeing to the amendment, and Senators CONRAD and GREGG for their help in putting together a more realistic budget for small businesses.

Mr. GREGG. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. 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. CONRAD. Mr. President, could we get an update on the time situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Certainly. The minority has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. CONRAD. Two minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Correct. The majority has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. CONRAD. I ask the chairman, could I get 2 additional minutes to give to Senator KERRY?

Mr. GREGG. Sure.

Mr. CONRAD. The chairman, once again, is gracious to provide another 2 minutes. I ask unanimous consent for 2 minutes from his time to our time and I give 4 minutes to the Senator from Massachusetts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I am grateful to both of the managers and appreciate the courtesy.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3143

Mr. President, I have an amendment which I send to the desk and ask for its appropriate consideration in the line of votes, as we decide on that later.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KERRY] proposes an amendment numbered 3143.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To eliminate increased fees and co-payments for retired military healthcare)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$592,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,619,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$2,188,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$2,685,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by \$3,271,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$592,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,619,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$2,188,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$2,685,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$3,271,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$735,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,862,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$2,322,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, increase the amount by \$2,816,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, increase the amount by \$3,424,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$592,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$1,619,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$2,188,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$2,685,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$3,271,000,000.

On page 9, line 20, increase the amount by \$735,000,000.

On page 9, line 21, increase the amount by \$592,000,000.

On page 9, line 24, increase the amount by \$1,862,000,000.

On page 9, line 25, increase the amount by \$1,619,000,000.

On page 10, line 3, increase the amount by \$2,322,000,000.

On page 10, line 4, increase the amount by \$2,188,000,000.

On page 10, line 7, increase the amount by \$2,816,000,000.

On page 10, line 8, increase the amount by \$2,685,000,000.

On page 10, line 11, increase the amount by \$3,424,000,000.

On page 10, line 12, increase the amount by \$3,271,000,000.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the President's budget proposal includes a concept to increase TRICARE—this is the DOD, Department of Defense, health care program—fees and copayments for military retirees under the age of 65 and for their dependents.

All of us recognize there is this spiraling cost to health care. I understand that. And it affects everything we are doing in the country. The Department of Defense is, needless to say, no different. It has those increases. But the answer is not found in tripling the fees for retired officers, doubling them for senior enlisted retirees, and demanding more from every military retiree under the age of 65 who uses the health care system, when you look at the other costs that are already going up for all of those folks.

Most importantly, there are a series of better ways that have been recommended to bring down the cost of health care for those retirees. So you do not have to go immediately to fees and copayments in order to solve the problem of the increase in costs.

In successive budget requests, the Bush administration has asked for increased fees and copayments for veterans health care, which is increasingly shifting the burden of that care

from some veterans on to others, and it is driving some veterans out of the system altogether, which is, obviously, not fair.

My amendment will restore the funding for TRICARE so that military retirees are not saddled with these increased costs and fees. We pay for it by closing a number of tax loopholes. I think by doing so, we keep faith with people who have served our country for 20 years or more.

They did not ask to change the terms of their commitment to the military when things got tough, and I do not think we should be ignoring and changing our commitment to them now.

Mr. President, I yield back such time as may remain.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. 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. GREGG. Mr. President, we are 10 minutes away from the big show, which may go on for a long time. It may be a big, long show. In any event, I want to alert Members we are going to go to 10-minute votes. We are going to be holding the 10-minute votes as strictly as possible. The first vote will, obviously, not be 10 minutes. And we are going to start voting at 1:30. We have pending so many amendments that we could be here well into the evening. Cooperation is needed if people do not want to be here well into tomorrow morning.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. 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. GREGG. Mr. President, I yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Nebraska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, thank you. And I thank the distinguished chairman of the Budget Committee.

AMENDMENT NO. 3127

Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3127 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HAGEL] proposes an amendment numbered 3127.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a reserve fund for a Comprehensive Entitlement Reform Commission)

At the end of title III, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . RESERVE FUND FOR A COMPREHENSIVE ENTITLEMENT REFORM COMMISSION.

If—

(1) the Committee on Finance of the Senate reports a bill or joint resolution, or if an amendment is offered thereto or if a conference report is submitted thereon, that establishes a Comprehensive Entitlement Reform Commission for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive review of the Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid programs and making recommendations to sustain the solvency and stability of these programs for future generations; and

(2) that committee is within its allocation as provided under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; the chairman of the Committee on the Budget may make the appropriate adjustments in allocations and aggregates to the extent that such legislation would not increase the deficit for fiscal year 2007 and the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators Isakson and Chambliss be added as cosponsors.

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

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, last October, I introduced legislation, S. 1889, to create a bipartisan entitlement reform commission. Senator ISAKSON cosponsored my legislation, and Representative JOHN TANNER joined me in introducing this legislation in the House of Representatives.

In January, the President called on Congress to create such a commission in his State of the Union Address. The amendment I am offering today responds to the President's request.

My amendment establishes a reserve fund that would allow Congress to pass legislation later this year forming a bipartisan entitlement reform commission. This bipartisan commission would review America's three major entitlement programs—Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—and make comprehensive recommendations on how to stabilize and keep solvent these programs for future generations.

The entitlement course that we are currently on is unsustainable. Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid have been vital components for millions of Americans as they have found a happier retirement. However, over the next 75 years, these three programs represent a \$42 trillion unfunded mandate for the American taxpayer.

The Social Security trust fund faces a \$4 trillion unfunded commitment and will pay out more money than it takes in beginning around 2017. The fund will be exhausted by 2041. The Medicare Part A trust fund—hospital insurance—faces an almost \$9 trillion unfunded commitment and will be exhausted by 2020.

Where is the money to pay for these commitments going to come from? We must deal with these challenges today while we still have time and constructive options. To leave future generations burdened with paying for huge

entitlement commitments when they will be competing in a far more competitive world than exists today would be dangerously irresponsible.

This is not a Republican or a Democratic problem. This affects us all. Most significantly, it affects the most vulnerable in our society. Creating this commission will start us down the road to dealing with this problem and will protect the next generation from facing Draconian choices in their future.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment today.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I assume I have no time remaining.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct. The remainder of the time is controlled by the Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, may I ask the Senator from New Hampshire for 2 minutes so I might offer an amendment.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I yield the Senator from North Dakota 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I thank the chairman again for his courtesy.

AMENDMENT NO. 3148

Mr. President, I want to say to the Senator from Nebraska that while on this side we agree that we have long-term challenges, very deep long-term challenges, with the fiscal health of the country, we believe the amendment the Senator from Nebraska has offered is too narrow in scope.

Mr. President, for that reason, I send an amendment to the desk to be considered at the same time as the amendment offered by the Senator from Nebraska. Basically, the difference is this: We think everything ought to be on the table. We think everything ought to be on the table, not just entitlements but domestic discretionary spending, the revenue side of the equation, that all ought to be considered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator briefly allow the clerk to formally report.

Mr. CONRAD. I will be happy to.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] proposes an amendment numbered 3148.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To create a deficit-neutral reserve fund for addressing the long term fiscal challenges facing our nation, by creating a bipartisan commission or process to consider all parts of the budget, with everything on the table for discussion)

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . RESERVE FUND FOR ADDRESSING THE LONG-TERM FISCAL CHALLENGES FACING THE NATION.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the alloca-

tions, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or a conference report thereon, that would provide for the bipartisan leadership of the House and Senate to work with the President to establish a commission (or other mutually agreeable process) to address the long-term fiscal challenges facing the nation, provided that such commission or process—

(1) Addresses these long-term fiscal challenges in a manner in which both political parties are represented equally, and

(2) Considers all parts of the budget by putting everything on the table for discussion provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit for fiscal year 2007 and the period of fiscal years 2007 to 2011.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator may continue.

Mr. CONRAD. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have a letter printed in the RECORD from AARP in opposition to the Hagel amendment, indicating they agree that the Hagel amendment is too narrow in scope, and that we ought to have a broader look at all of the problems facing our fiscal future, not just focus on one part.

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

AARP,  
March 16, 2006.

Hon. KENT CONRAD,  
Ranking Minority Member, Budget Committee,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CONRAD: The Senate will shortly consider an amendment regarding a narrowly focused commission to address the long-term challenges facing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. AARP agrees that we must confront the challenges and opportunities posed by the aging of the baby boom generation, but a commission focused primarily on the fiscal impact of our critical health and income security programs overlooks the important role they play in the lives of millions of Americans of all ages.

Commissions have been most effective in laying out policy options when they have been balanced, established without preconditions, given a mandate to address the underlying causes of problems, and provided all sides with an opportunity to be heard. A commission to address our long-term fiscal challenges has merit provided it examines the full scope of our budgetary policy, including the revenue needed to ensure the health and income security of all Americans.

Most important to AARP and its 36 million members, the commission must recognize that ultimately the solutions must be about people. A commission's recommendations should put us on a path to secure the future ability of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid to continue to provide a foundation for the health and retirement security of all generations as well as guide the way to sound long-term budget policies.

The current amendment offered by Senator Hagel does not meet all of these criteria. Therefore, AARP cannot support this amendment.

Sincerely,

DAVID P. SLOANE,  
Senior Managing Director,  
Government Relations & Advocacy.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. 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. GREGG. Mr. President, just for the edification of our colleagues because it is going to get a little confusing around here with all the amendments we have, we are going to begin the amendment voting process with the amendment of Senator LIEBERMAN on homeland security. That will be followed by Senator CLINTON's amendment, followed by Senator SPECTER's amendment on education, followed by the amendment of Senator REED of Rhode Island on LIHEAP, followed by Senator LAUTENBERG's amendment on TSA fees, followed by Senator SARBANES's amendment on function 300, followed by Senator DORGAN's amendment on tribal issues, followed by Senator CORNYN's amendment on reconciliation, followed by Senator STABENOW's amendment on veterans, followed by Senator AKAKA's amendment on title I, followed by Senator COLLINS's amendment on homeland security, followed by Senator LINCOLN's amendment on small business—oh, we are stopping at Senator COLLINS's amendment, and then we are going to order the next group of amendments.

So that is the basic concept.

Mr. CONRAD. Might we put in a quorum call? We have a little bit of a glitch.

Mr. GREGG. Yes.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. 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. GREGG. Mr. President, I wish to amend the prior list of how we will proceed with votes. We will begin with Senator REED and his LIHEAP amendment. We will follow that with Senator CLINTON on health care, followed by Senator SPECTER, and then we will go to Senator LIEBERMAN. Then the list will continue as outlined in the prior discussion.

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

Mr. GREGG. I ask unanimous consent that for the amendments which are pending, there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote.

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

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that no second degrees be in order, with the exception of the Clinton amendment which might be subject to a second degree or further side by side.

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

The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized for 1 minute.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3074

Mr. REED. Mr. President, this amendment would raise the allocation for LIHEAP to the statutorily authorized \$5.1 billion. It recognizes the fact that energy prices have been going up and that we are likely not to see a mild winter again next year; that we can expect right now to need more resources. Just a few weeks ago, we were on the floor of the Senate trying to raise the emergency funding for LIHEAP because of the intersection of cold temperatures and the increased cost of fuel. If we do pass this amendment, it will increase the allocation of resources not just to the cold States but to the warm States. This will provide significant resources for those States such as Alabama, Louisiana, and Nevada that need the assistance in the summertime for air-conditioning.

I urge my colleagues to pass my amendment. We know it is going to be a problem next year. The funds in the President's budget are insufficient. We have to stand up and make sure we take care of the vulnerable people.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we made a very strong commitment to LIHEAP a few weeks ago. We passed an additional billion dollars on the Senate floor. In other vehicles, we have passed even more money for LIHEAP. This amendment does not fund LIHEAP because nothing in this bill is binding on the Appropriations Committee. What it does do, however, is raise the cap by \$1 billion and raise taxes by \$1 billion. It will be up to the Appropriations Committee to decide whether they are going to fund LIHEAP at this year's level or next year's level or last year's level. The history is pretty strong. LIHEAP gets well funded around here and you can pretty much presume that the Appropriations Committee will do that. But they will do it within the cap, and that is the way it should be. Therefore, I hope Members will reject this amendment because it is basically a tax-and-spend amendment.

I ask unanimous consent that the yeas and nays be deemed to have been ordered on all amendments that are proceeding here.

Mr. CONRAD. No objection.

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

Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second. The yeas and nays are ordered.

Mr. GREGG. I ask unanimous consent that seconds be deemed to have been approved for all the yeas and nays for the balance of the amendments.

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

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3074.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 57 Leg.]

## YEAS—51

Akaka	Dorgan	Menendez
Baucus	Durbin	Mikulski
Bayh	Feingold	Murray
Biden	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Boxer	Inouye	Obama
Byrd	Jeffords	Pryor
Cantwell	Johnson	Reed
Carper	Kennedy	Reid
Chafee	Kerry	Rockefeller
Clinton	Kohl	Salazar
Coleman	Landrieu	Sarbanes
Collins	Lautenberg	Schumer
Conrad	Leahy	Snowe
Dayton	Levin	Specter
DeWine	Lieberman	Stabenow
Dodd	Lincoln	Wyden

## NAYS—49

Alexander	Domenici	McConnell
Allard	Ensign	Murkowski
Allen	Enzi	Roberts
Bennett	Frist	Santorum
Bond	Graham	Sessions
Brownback	Grassley	Shelby
Bunning	Gregg	Smith
Burns	Hagel	Stevens
Burr	Hatch	Sununu
Chambliss	Hutchison	Talent
Coburn	Inhofe	Thomas
Cochran	Isakson	Thune
Cornyn	Kyl	Vitter
Craig	Lott	Voinovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner
DeMint	Martinez	
Dole	McCain	

The amendment (No. 3074) was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. CONRAD. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

## AMENDMENT NO. 3115 WITHDRAWN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I hope this sets a good example for the 40-odd amendments we have left. I ask unanimous consent that the Reid-Clinton amendment be withdrawn, and the Ensign amendment—it has not been filed yet, I believe—will not be offered.

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

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we will now go to the Specter amendment. Senator SPECTER and those in opposition had not expected this amendment to come up so quickly. I hate to slow the voting down.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CONRAD. 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. CONRAD. Mr. President, if we could ask our colleagues, we know the list that has been put in, and if colleagues who have amendments about to be considered will be closely attentive to what is happening here so we don't have dead time, that would be very helpful to the process.

After this amendment, next is the Lieberman amendment. So we alert Senator LIEBERMAN and his staff. Then we will have the Lautenberg amendment. If those Senators can be ready to go.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I see the cosponsor of the amendment is on the Senate floor. Would he like to take the time allocated to him?

Mr. HARKIN. We have 30 seconds?

Mr. GREGG. The Senator has a minute. Proponents of the amendment have a minute.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3048

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 1 minute on each side on the Specter-Harkin amendment No. 3048, on which the yeas and nays have been ordered.

Who seeks recognition? The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, Senator HARKIN and I have submitted this amendment, joined by 27 cosponsors, which would add \$7 billion to the fund for education, health, and workers' safety. This account has been decimated since fiscal year 2005 with a loss of some \$15.7 billion when we consider the cuts and the failure to have an inflationary increase.

Health and education are the two major capital assets of the country. We have gone beyond the fat, beyond the muscle, beyond the bone, and into the marrow. This funding will help us a little, not really enough. We ask our colleagues to support it.

I yield to Senator HARKIN.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague for his great leadership in the areas of health and education, especially medical research. This amendment only takes us back to 2005. That is all it does. It sets the level back to where it was in 2005. It is a very modest proposal.

I hope we can have a strong vote on this amendment to get the money we need for Pell grants, for NIH, for the Centers for Disease Control—all the programs that are so necessary to our country.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise in support of this amendment to provide an additional \$7 billion for critical health, education, training and low-income programs. This budget has all the wrong priorities. Instead of easing the burden on middle-class families and helping to curb the costs of education and health care, President Bush and the Republicans want to cut funding for these programs by more than \$4 billion and spend billions on tax breaks for multimillionaires. This amendment would restore cuts to some of the most vital programs in our country programs like No Child Left Behind, Pell

grants, NIH, and nursing education. It is my job as a U.S. Senator to look out for the day-to-day needs of Marylanders and the long-term needs of the Nation, and this amendment takes us closer to both of these goals.

Our middle-class families are stressed and stretched. Families in my State of Maryland are worried—they are worried about their jobs, they are terrified of losing their health care, and they don't know how they are going to afford to send their kids to college. Families are looking for help and President Bush doesn't offer them much hope. His budget would freeze the maximum Pell grant at \$4,050 for the fourth year in a row. Twenty years ago, Pell grants covered 80 percent of average costs at 4-year public colleges. Now, they cover only 40 percent. If Pell grants remain the same for another year, many students will be forced to take out more student loans and some won't be able to go to school at all. Our students are graduating with so much debt, it is like their first mortgage. The average undergraduate student debt from college loans is almost \$19,000. College is part of the American dream; it shouldn't be part of the American financial nightmare.

We need to do more to help middle-class families afford college. We need to immediately increase the maximum Pell Grant to \$4,500 and double it over the next 6 years. We need to make sure student loans are affordable. And we need a bigger tuition tax credit for the families stuck in the middle who aren't eligible for Pell grants but still can't afford college.

America needs a public school system that works. I support the goals of No Child Left Behind: a good teacher in every classroom, making sure every student is proficient in math and reading, and fighting against the soft bigotry of low expectations. But to do that, schools need help from the Federal Government. Schools need resources for smaller classes, teacher training, and meeting special needs—like bilingual education or special education. Yet the Republican budget doesn't give schools the funds to do the job. It falls \$15.4 billion short of what we promised for No Child Left Behind. It shortchanges schools and shortchanges our children. That is wrong.

I have heard from teachers and parents from all over Maryland. They are worried about how they are going to meet all the requirements in No Child Left Behind. They all tell me that they are worried about whether their school will make the grade—especially in this time of budget cuts and budget crunches.

No Child Left Behind placed the burden on schools to improve. I know the teachers and school officials are doing their best to turn struggling schools around. But they can't do it alone. They need encouragement, support, and resources. That is why this amendment is so important. We must make sure no child is left out of the budget.

NIH is a jewel in the Nation's crown. As the Senator from Maryland, I am proud that NIH is in my home State. The investments we are making in biomedical research today have the potential to pay priceless returns for people across this country. That is why I strongly supported the bipartisan doubling of the NIH budget over 5 years to \$27 billion. This goal was met in 2003, but our work is not done. We must continue to invest in biomedical research and support continued increases of the NIH budget, so that the research that scientists are doing will continue to help people live longer, healthier lives.

The Republican budget level funds the NIH at \$28.3 billion, which is \$62 million less than in fiscal year 2005. As a result, the total number of NIH-funded research project grants would drop by 642, or 2 percent, below last year's level. The budget would cut funding for 18 of the 19 institutes. Funding for the National Cancer Institute would drop by \$40 million, and funding for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute would drop by \$21 million. Over the years, the American people have invested in NIH. It is paying off in improved prevention, diagnosis, and treatments for diseases. We must continue to invest in biomedical research.

Today, our Nation faces a shortage of nearly 500,000 nurses. As our population continues to grow and age, the need for nurses will continue to increase. The Department of Labor reported in the Winter 2005–2006 Occupational Outlook Quarterly that America's demand for new and replacement RN's will grow by 29 percent between 2004 and 2014, to 1.2 million, in order to accommodate growing patient needs and to replace retiring nurses. Yet the Republican budget funds nursing workforce development programs at last year's level of \$150 million. Congress must do more to address this crisis.

I am proud to cosponsor this amendment and I urge my colleagues to vote for it. These additional funds are crucial for so many important programs that change lives and save lives. I will keep fighting so that these programs get the funds they need and to ensure that Americans have health care at any age, public schools we can depend on, and access to higher education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Who yields time in opposition?

Mr. GREGG. I yield back the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has been yielded back. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3048. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

This will be a 10-minute vote.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 73, nays 27, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 58 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Akaka	Bayh	Bingaman
Alexander	Bennett	Boxer
Baucus	Biden	Burns

Byrd	Hatch	Obama
Cantwell	Hutchison	Pryor
Carper	Inouye	Reed
Chafee	Jeffords	Reid
Clinton	Johnson	Roberts
Cochran	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Coleman	Kerry	Salazar
Collins	Kohl	Santorum
Conrad	Landrieu	Sarbanes
Dayton	Lautenberg	Schumer
DeWine	Leahy	Smith
Dodd	Levin	Snowe
Dole	Lieberman	Specter
Domenici	Lincoln	Stabenow
Dorgan	Lott	Stevens
Durbin	Lugar	Talent
Feingold	Menendez	Thune
Feinstein	Mikulski	Voinovich
Frist	Murkowski	Warner
Grassley	Murray	Wyden
Hagel	Nelson (FL)	
Harkin	Nelson (NE)	

NAYS—27

Allard	Craig	Kyl
Allen	Crapo	Martinez
Bond	DeMint	McCain
Brownback	Ensign	McConnell
Bunning	Enzi	Sessions
Burr	Graham	Shelby
Chambliss	Gregg	Sununu
Coburn	Inhofe	Thomas
Cornyn	Isakson	Vitter

The amendment (No. 3048) was agreed to.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I spoke to the distinguished majority leader just a few minutes ago, and we have lots and lots of amendments. We hope we would stick to 10 minutes. On my side, if Senators aren't here in 10 minutes, I hope it would be a fair, equal punishment that if people aren't here in 10 minutes, the vote should be closed. Everyone knows what the rules are. People have things to do. It is not fair to the Senators. People come straggling in after 16, 17, 18 minutes, and it is not fair. So I would hope that we have 10-minute votes. We have lots of votes to do.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I also wish to agree with the Democratic leader and express a request. We are going to have a long day here. We have a lot of votes lined up, and we have a lot of votes to follow that as well. So let's follow the managers' lead, and we are going to leave it to their discretion. Right now, we have instructed them to cut off those votes. With that, no complaints. People have to stick close to the floor.

AMENDMENT NO. 3034

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). Under the previous order, the next amendment is the Lieberman amendment No. 3034 on which the yeas and nays have been ordered and for which there will be 2 minutes evenly divided for debate.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, could I just alert colleagues, we have now done a vote count. We have over 60 votes pending. We can only do three votes an hour. That would take us 20 hours. I urge colleagues—there are other vehicles coming. We have had a lot of votes already on this budget resolution. We have a lot more votes scheduled. I would urge colleagues to come to us and remove some of their amendments from consideration.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On amendment No. 3034, the Senator from Connecticut is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator DURBIN be added as a cosponsor of this amendment.

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

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I have said that the budget before us, when it comes to our homeland security, is shortsighted and short-funded. But I wish to go beyond that, so working with my staff we reached out to experts in the various areas that constitute our homeland security in a time of terrorism. This is the result: a comprehensive proposal that would add \$8 billion to our homeland security. It is, in fact, what is necessary to protect the American people at a time of terrorism and from natural disasters like Katrina. The money will go to first responders, port security, rail transit security, FEMA, bioterrorism, chemical security, and aviation security, and the Coast Guard.

For real homeland security, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Who yields time in opposition? The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we have increased the funding for national defense by \$30 billion in this bill in the core budget. We have increased it by \$40 billion in the ancillary budget which funds alongside the core budget, putting it up to \$90 billion. We have increased border and port security funding by \$4 billion, and we already have in the pipeline something like \$5 billion of unspent money for first responders and something like \$3.5 billion for interoperability. This amendment is not needed, and it is a tax-and-spend amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having been yielded back, the question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3034.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 43, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 59 Leg.]

YEAS—43

Akaka	Carper	Feingold
Bayh	Clinton	Feinstein
Biden	Conrad	Harkin
Bingaman	Dayton	Inouye
Boxer	Dodd	Jeffords
Byrd	Dorgan	Johnson
Cantwell	Durbin	Kennedy

Kerry	Menendez	Rockefeller
Kohl	Mikulski	Salazar
Landrieu	Murray	Sarbanes
Lautenberg	Nelson (FL)	Schumer
Leahy	Obama	Stabenow
Levin	Pryor	Wyden
Lieberman	Reed	
Lincoln	Reid	

NAYS—53

Alexander	Dole	Murkowski
Allard	Domenici	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Ensign	Roberts
Bond	Enzi	Santorum
Brownback	Frist	Sessions
Bunning	Graham	Shelby
Burns	Grassley	Smith
Burr	Gregg	Snowe
Chambliss	Hagel	Specter
Coburn	Hatch	Stevens
Cochran	Hutchison	Sununu
Coleman	Inhofe	Talent
Collins	Isakson	Thomas
Cornyn	Kyl	Thune
Craig	Lugar	Vitter
Crapo	Martinez	Voinovich
DeMint	McCain	Warner
DeWine	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—4

Allen	Chafee
Baucus	Lott

The amendment (No. 3034) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3137

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the next amendment is the Lautenberg amendment on which the yeas and nays have been ordered. There will be 2 minutes evenly divided. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized for 1 minute.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, my amendment is now being considered. The vote is simple: If you vote yes, you support my amendment to strike this unfair tax increase from the budget. However, if you vote no on this, you are saying to the average family that they should pay more taxes. So the vote is yes. We want to strike this unfair tax increase from the budget.

The average family of four traveling round-trip on nonstop flights will pay \$40 in security taxes under the President's budget proposal. The traveling public is already overtaxed. They pay nearly 20 percent in total Federal taxes on every airline ticket.

To make matters worse, this tax increase will hit families the hardest—families and loved ones traveling to be together, whether during holidays or emergencies.

The proper vote for the families of America is a yes vote. I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and eliminate the Bush airline passenger tax increase.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired. Who seeks time in opposition?

Mr. GREGG. We are willing to accept this amendment. I ask unanimous consent the yeas and nays be vitiated and the amendment be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the yeas and nays are vitiated and the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3137) was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3103

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the next amendment is No. 3103, the Sarbanes amendment, on which the yeas and nays have been ordered and on which there will be 2 minutes evenly divided.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this amendment raises the function 300 back to baseline. I have a letter here. I ask unanimous consent to have it printed in the RECORD. It is from a number of the leading environmental organizations.

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

MARCH 16, 2006.

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of our millions of members and supporters, we write to urge you to vote for the amendment to the budget resolution proposed by Senator Sarbanes. It will provide \$31.1 billion for environmental protection and restoration in function 300 of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget. This amendment will restore funding in function 300 to the baseline level taken from Fiscal Year 2006 and stop the proposed back slide in environmental protection. The environment is not only important for public health, but it is also a critical asset to the nation providing recreational, cultural, economic, and ecological capital to our society.

The cuts proposed in the Senate budget resolution would undermine the progress that has been made on protecting our natural resources. Funding for drinking water and clean water infrastructure has been cut to dangerous levels; clean up of toxic sites around the country will continue to slow down; species and land preservation for future generations will struggle forward; the condition of our national parks would continue to deteriorate; our ocean resources would linger on the brink of collapse; and farmers and ranchers seeking assistance to improve environmental quality will be turned away.

Unfortunately, the federal government in the past several years has not provided the support that these resources need to protect local communities and the natural ecosystems. In addition, past budget resolutions have proposed Arctic drilling—an old, tired idea that would further devastate the environment—as a way to pay for other important programs. Though on paper there have been increases in funding for the environment, inflation has outstripped those increases leading to cut backs in critical environmental programs. Adjusted for inflation the cuts have amounted to almost \$2 billion in the past two years. We ask that you stop this trend and reinvigorate the federal government's role as a leader in investing in our country by providing at least \$31.1 billion for environmental protection and restoration in the Fiscal Year 2007 budget.

Sincerely,

Cindy Shogan, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League; S. Elizabeth Birnbaum, Vice President for Government Affairs, American Rivers; Mary Beth Beetham, Director of Legislative Affairs, Defenders of Wildlife; Marty Hayden, Vice President for Policy and Legislation, Earthjustice; Brock Evans, President, Endangered Species Coalition; Sara Zdeb, Legislative Director, Friends of the Earth; Betsy Loyless, Vice President for Policy, National Audubon Society; Karen Steuer,

Vice President, National Environmental Trust; Blake Selzer, Legislative Director, National Parks Conservation Association; Heather Taylor, Deputy Legislative Director, Natural Resources Defense Council; Michele Boyd, Legislative Director, Public Citizen; Anna Aurilio, Legislative Director, U.S. PIRG; Linda Lance, Vice President Public Policy, The Wilderness Society.

Mr. SARBANES. I will quote one paragraph:

The cuts proposed in the Senate budget resolution would undermine the progress that has been made on protecting our natural resources. Funding for drinking water and clean water infrastructure has been cut to dangerous levels; clean up of toxic sites around the country will continue to slow down; species and land preservation for future generations will struggle forward; the condition of our national parks would continue to deteriorate; our ocean resources would linger on the brink of collapse; and farmers and ranchers seeking assistance to improve environmental quality will be turned away.

Don't let these things happen. Support this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time in opposition?

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, let me say to my friend Senator SARBANES, there is no stronger supporter of our State revolving funds than I am, as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee. But I wish to say this is a \$2.9 billion tax increase. There are ways of doing it by eliminating some unnecessary programs.

Regarding the portion also affecting the Corps of Engineers, I understand they are underfunded at this time and we are working right now in our committee to see what we can do to come up with some money by striking some of the less important, less necessary programs.

I urge my colleagues to vote against the Sarbanes amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time having been yielded, the question is on agreeing to the amendment. The yeas and nays have been ordered. Under the previous order, this will be again a 10-minute vote.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 60 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Akaka	Byrd	Conrad
Baucus	Cantwell	Dayton
Bayh	Carper	DeWine
Biden	Chafee	Dodd
Bingaman	Clinton	Dorgan
Boxer	Collins	Durbin

Feingold  
Feinstein  
Harkin  
Inouye  
Jeffords  
Johnson  
Kennedy  
Kerry  
Kohl  
Lautenberg

Leahy  
Lieberman  
Lincoln  
Menendez  
Mikulski  
Murray  
Nelson (FL)  
Nelson (NE)  
Obama  
Pryor

Reed  
Reid  
Rockefeller  
Salazar  
Sarbanes  
Schumer  
Snowe  
Stabenow  
Warner  
Wyden

NAYS—49

Alexander  
Allard  
Allen  
Bennett  
Bond  
Brownback  
Bunning  
Burns  
Burr  
Chambliss  
Coburn  
Cochran  
Coleman  
Cornyn  
Crapo  
DeMint  
Dole

Domenici  
Ensign  
Enzi  
Frist  
Graham  
Grassley  
Gregg  
Hagel  
Hatch  
Hutchison  
Inhofe  
Isakson  
Kyl  
Lott  
Lugar  
Martinez  
McCain

McConnell  
Murkowski  
Roberts  
Santorum  
Sessions  
Shelby  
Smith  
Specter  
Stevens  
Sununu  
Talent  
Thomas  
Thune  
Vitter  
Voinovich

NOT VOTING—3

Craig Landrieu Levin

The amendment (No. 3103) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3102

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the next amendment is the Dorgan amendment No. 3102. The yeas and nays have been ordered. There will be 2 minutes equally divided.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, can I alert colleagues again? We have colleagues who are missing votes. They are missing votes because of the time deadline. We have had Democrats missing votes and we have had Republicans missing votes. We don't want you to miss votes. We want you to make votes but at the same time we have to stay on schedule.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I will be very brief.

This is an amendment which I offered last year. It adds \$1 billion to the account dealing with American Indians.

All of us in this Chamber know there are neighbors among us in this country who live in Third World communities. We have a bona fide Federal crisis in health care, education, and housing on Indian reservations. We have a trust responsibility for the health care of American Indians.

Did you know we also have a responsibility for Federal prisoners' health care? We spend twice as much per person for the health care of Federal prisoners as we do to meet our trust responsibility for the health care of American Indians.

We all know we underfund these accounts. This adds \$1 billion to a multitude of Indian accounts dealing with health care, housing, and education. It is funded by closing some tax loopholes.

I hope this Senate will decide this is the right set of priorities.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, this amendment doesn't guarantee that any money goes to the tribal authorities. All it does is raise the cap by \$1 billion—increases taxes by \$1 billion. It is entirely up to the Appropriations Committee how they spend money. We have no control over that. The practical effect of this amendment is simply tax and spend.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment. Under the previous order, the yeas and nays have been ordered. Under the previous order, this will be a 10-minute vote.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 42, nays 56, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 61 Leg.]

YEAS—42

Akaka	Feinstein	Mikulski
Baucus	Harkin	Murray
Bayh	Jeffords	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Johnson	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Kennedy	Obama
Boxer	Kerry	Pryor
Byrd	Kohl	Reed
Cantwell	Landrieu	Reid
Clinton	Lautenberg	Rockefeller
Conrad	Leahy	Salazar
Dodd	Levin	Sarbanes
Dorgan	Lieberman	Schumer
Durbin	Lincoln	Stabenow
Feingold	Menendez	Wyden

NAYS—56

Alexander	DeMint	McCain
Allard	DeWine	McConnell
Allen	Dole	Murkowski
Bennett	Domenici	Roberts
Bond	Ensign	Santorum
Brownback	Enzi	Sessions
Bunning	Frist	Shelby
Burns	Graham	Smith
Burr	Grassley	Snowe
Carper	Gregg	Specter
Chafee	Hagel	Stevens
Chambliss	Hatch	Sununu
Coburn	Hutchison	Talent
Cochran	Inhofe	Thomas
Coleman	Isakson	Thune
Collins	Kyl	Vitter
Cornyn	Lott	Voinovich
Craig	Lugar	Warner
Crapo	Martinez	

NOT VOTING—2

Dayton Inouye

The amendment (No. 3102) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. REID. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3100

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes equally divided prior to voting on the Cornyn amendment.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, my amendment directs the Senate Committee on Finance to find \$10 billion in additional savings out of the Medicare Program and builds on the work done in the Deficit Reduction Act where we

reduced the rate of growth for mandatory spending by nearly \$100 billion over the next decade.

As all Members know, there is increasing pressure on discretionary spending on important priorities because of the growth of Medicare, Social Security, and Medicaid. Medicare and Medicaid alone grew by 22 percent over the last 5 years. This will allow the Committee on Finance to take the stabilization fund, for example, that is used to supplement payments to preferred provider organizations which participate in the Medicare Program, which is available to be recouped to help pay down some of the debt in the amount of \$10 billion, as well as other sources of revenue that they can gain out of the Medicare Program.

I ask my colleagues to vote "aye."

Mr. CONRAD. I yield the time to the ranking member on the Finance Committee, Senator BAUCUS.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, colleagues, this is déjà vu all over again. This is the reconciliation cut bill of \$11 billion which barely passed the House all over again. It is added on, on top of that again. That was a net \$11 billion cut for Medicare and Medicaid in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Finance, and this is \$11 billion yet on top of that. That will come out of you know whose hides. You know how unpopular that will be back home.

This is not the way to cut entitlement spending or put a limit on it. The better way is an all-encompassing way when everyone is in it together, not directed to the Committee on Finance jurisdiction which will cut more out of Medicaid, cut more spending out of Medicare.

I strongly urge my colleagues, just remember, this is déjà vu all over again. It is a repeat of what happened last year. That was extremely unpopular.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant journal clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 43, nays 57, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 62 Leg.]

YEAS—43

Alexander	DeMint	McCain
Allard	Dole	McConnell
Allen	Domenici	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Ensign	Roberts
Bond	Enzi	Santorum
Brownback	Frist	Sessions
Bunning	Graham	Shelby
Burns	Grassley	Sununu
Burr	Gregg	Talent
Chambliss	Hagel	Thune
Coburn	Hatch	Vitter
Cochran	Inhofe	Voinovich
Cornyn	Isakson	Kyl
Craig	Kyl	Warner
Crapo	Lott	

NAYS—57

Akaka	Bingaman	Carper
Baucus	Boxer	Chafee
Bayh	Byrd	Clinton
Biden	Cantwell	Coleman

Collins	Kerry	Obama
Conrad	Kohl	Pryor
Dayton	Landrieu	Reed
DeWine	Lautenberg	Reid
Dodd	Leahy	Rockefeller
Dorgan	Levin	Salazar
Durbin	Lieberman	Sarbanes
Feingold	Lincoln	Schumer
Feinstein	Lugar	Smith
Harkin	Martinez	Snowe
Hutchison	Menendez	Specter
Inouye	Mikulski	Stabenow
Jeffords	Murkowski	Stevens
Johnson	Murray	Thomas
Kennedy	Nelson (FL)	Wyden

The amendment (No. 3100) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. I move to reconsider the vote and move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, on vote No. 62, I am recorded as "yea." I intended to vote "nay." I ask unanimous consent to change my vote. It will not change the outcome of the vote.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

AMENDMENT NO. 3112 WITHDRAWN

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, with the approval of Senator LANDRIEU, I ask unanimous consent that her amendment No. 3112 be withdrawn.

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

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, for the edification of our colleagues, when we complete the Collins amendment, the next five amendments after that—we have pending the Stabenow, Akaka, and Collins amendments—and the next five amendments after that will be the Lincoln amendment No. 3047; Grassley, an unnumbered amendment; Inhofe, No. 3093, I believe; Lincoln, No. 3106; Kerry, No. 3143.

We are now on to Senator STABENOW.

AMENDMENT NO. 3141

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 2 minutes equally divided on the amendment.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, my amendment is about guaranteeing that every veteran in America has the health care they were promised and they deserve. Over the last 2 years, we have seen a 500-percent increase in the number of veterans seeking care from the VA who served in Iraq and Afghanistan alone. But this budget falls over 35,000 veterans short of the number of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans whom the VA currently treats. And remarkably, the President's budget projects fewer vets will seek mental health care, which is absolutely incorrect. If you believe, as I do, the men and women who have fought for our country should not have to fight every day, every year, for the health care they need, I urge you to vote yes on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I will be brief, but it is important I have the attention of my colleagues.

Yesterday, with the Burns amendment, we increased veterans funding over last year by 14 percent, so we have already increased veterans spending by 14 percent. The Senator from Michigan wishes now to increase it by 36 percent. That is 104 billion new dollars over a 5-year period. And it is taxed for. At least she has the courtesy of offering something that is paid for.

But even the Veterans Administration, with the Burns amendment, by their best guesstimation—and I use the word "guesstimation"—would suggest that veterans' care next year will grow by less than 2 percent. There is absolutely no justification for increasing veterans health care budgets by a grand total of 36 percent in 1 year.

This Senate has been progressively generous to America's veterans, as we should be. It is now one of the most rapidly growing health care budgets in our country, with the Burns amendment, not the Stabenow amendment. Please vote no on the Stabenow amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 63 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Akaka	Feinstein	Murray
Baucus	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Inouye	Obama
Biden	Jeffords	Pryor
Bingaman	Johnson	Reed
Boxer	Kennedy	Reid
Byrd	Kerry	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Kohl	Salazar
Carper	Landrieu	Sarbanes
Clinton	Lautenberg	Schumer
Conrad	Leahy	Snowe
Dayton	Levin	Specter
Dodd	Lieberman	Stabenow
Dorgan	Lincoln	Stevens
Durbin	Menendez	Wyden
Feingold	Mikulski	

NAYS—54

Alexander	DeMint	Martinez
Allard	DeWine	McCain
Allen	Dole	McConnell
Bennett	Domenici	Murkowski
Bond	Ensign	Nelson (NE)
Brownback	Enzi	Roberts
Bunning	Frist	Santorum
Burns	Graham	Sessions
Burr	Grassley	Shelby
Chafee	Gregg	Smith
Chambliss	Hagel	Stevens
Coburn	Hatch	Sununu
Cochran	Hutchison	Talent
Coleman	Inhofe	Thomas
Collins	Isakson	Thune
Cornyn	Kyl	Vitter
Craig	Lott	Voinovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner

The amendment (No. 3141) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. FRIST. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to change my vote on amendment No. 3141, which we just voted on prior to this, offered by Senator STABENOW. I voted "nay." I wish to change it to "yea." It doesn't change the outcome of the vote.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

AMENDMENT NO. 3071

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 2 minutes equally divided prior to a vote on the Akaka amendment.

Who yields time?

Mr. CONRAD. I yield time to the Senator.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators Boxer and Johnson be added as cosponsors of my amendment.

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

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, this amendment restores \$3 billion to title I in No Child Left Behind educational programs. The amendment was offered because this budget resolution underfunds title I by more than \$12 billion. You should know that a \$3 billion increase would bring title I up to what the President requested since fiscal year 2004. Without this increase, 29 States could lose title I funding, and another 7 States would be level funded.

Vote aye on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time? The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, this amendment increases funding by \$3 billion and will be offset by closing tax loopholes, which means raising taxes, which would require a separate effort, anyway. The resolution we have before us already provides \$12.7 billion in 2007 for grants to local education agencies, the largest component of No Child Left Behind. That represents a 45-percent increase from 2001.

The Federal investment in education will have grown by \$12.2 billion, or 29 percent, since fiscal year 2001. In addition, the resolution provides an additional \$1.5 billion for funding for function 500, which includes No Child Left Behind, and those funds can be used for that. Education is and should be one of our highest priorities, but this amendment is paid for by increasing taxes and busts the discretionary spending cap. I ask that you vote no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment. The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant journal clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 64 Leg.]

YEAS—49

Akaka	Durbin	Mikulski
Baucus	Feingold	Murray
Bayh	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Inouye	Obama
Boxer	Jeffords	Pryor
Byrd	Johnson	Reed
Cantwell	Kennedy	Reid
Carper	Kerry	Rockefeller
Chafee	Kohl	Salazar
Clinton	Landrieu	Sarbanes
Collins	Lautenberg	Schumer
Conrad	Leahy	Snowe
Dayton	Levin	Stabenow
DeWine	Lieberman	Wyden
Dodd	Lincoln	
Dorgan	Menendez	

NAYS—51

Alexander	Dole	McCain
Allard	Domenici	McConnell
Allen	Ensign	Murkowski
Bennett	Enzi	Roberts
Bond	Frist	Santorum
Brownback	Graham	Sessions
Bunning	Grassley	Shelby
Burns	Gregg	Smith
Burr	Hagel	Specter
Chambliss	Hatch	Stevens
Coburn	Hutchinson	Sununu
Cochran	Inhofe	Talent
Coleman	Isakson	Thomas
Cromm	Kyl	Thune
Craig	Lott	Vitter
Crapo	Lugar	Voinovich
DeMint	Martinez	Warner

The amendment (No. 3071) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. BOND. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we are waiting for Senator CONRAD. For the moment, we will have to skip over Senator COLLINS. I understand we are hopefully going to have an understanding relative to the next two amendments, which will be the Grassley and Lincoln amendments.

That brings us to Senator INHOFE. We will come back to Senators COLLINS, GRASSLEY, and LINCOLN after this Inhofe vote.

AMENDMENT NO. 3093

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFFEE). The clerk will report the Inhofe amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] proposes an amendment numbered 3093.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

**SEC. . TO CONTROL DISCRETIONARY SPENDING**  
 "Beginning with fiscal year 2007 and thereafter, all non-defense, non-trust-fund, discretionary spending shall not exceed the previous fiscal year's levels, for purposes of the congressional budget process (Section 302 et al of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974), without a 2/3 vote of Members duly chosen and sworn."

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, how much time is divided on this amendment? I didn't get that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is 1 minute for each side.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, this is kind of a litmus test amendment. We have had it up a couple times before. We do intend to pick up votes each time. It is an amendment to get into some of the big spending we do around here. With the exception of trust votes and national defense, it says that any vote on appropriations that exceeds the previous year has to have a two-thirds majority.

This amendment is endorsed by a number of groups, including the American Conservative Union, Christian Coalition, and other groups. It will be a scored vote. It is a very significant vote. I think it is really the only meaningful vote to do something about curbing spending that we will have the entire day.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, this is truly a sweeping amendment. I hope colleagues are listening. This amendment seeks to lock in the current level of discretionary spending, not just for this year but permanently. I hope colleagues are listening. This seeks to lock in the current level of spending for homeland security, for veterans health, for NIH, not just for 1 year but permanently because it would take 67 votes to increase it.

I hope my colleagues will reject this amendment. This is an amendment which goes against every democratic impulse of this body.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on the five amendments we have put in order, the yeas and nays be deemed to have been granted, along with the seconds of those yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to that being in order? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3093. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), and the Senator from Arkansas (Ms. MURKOWSKI).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 35, nays 62, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 65 Leg.]

YEAS—35

Allard	Chambliss	Dole
Allen	Coburn	Ensign
Brownback	Cornyn	Enzi
Bunning	Craig	Frist
Burns	Crapo	Graham
Burr	DeMint	Grassley

Gregg	Kyl	Sessions
Hagel	Martinez	Sununu
Hatch	McCain	Thomas
Hutchison	McConnell	Thune
Inhofe	Nelson (NE)	Vitter
Isakson	Santorum	

## NAYS—62

Akaka	Dorgan	Nelson (FL)
Alexander	Durbin	Obama
Baucus	Feingold	Pryor
Bayh	Feinstein	Reed
Bennett	Harkin	Reid
Biden	Inouye	Roberts
Bingaman	Jeffords	Rockefeller
Bond	Johnson	Salazar
Boxer	Kennedy	Sarbanes
Byrd	Kerry	Schumer
Cantwell	Kohl	Shelby
Carper	Landrieu	Smith
Chafee	Lautenberg	Snowe
Clinton	Leahy	Specter
Cochran	Levin	Stabenow
Coleman	Lieberman	Stevens
Collins	Lincoln	Talent
Conrad	Lugar	Voinovich
Dayton	Menendez	Warner
DeWine	Mikulski	Wyden
Dodd	Murray	

## NOT VOTING—3

Domenici	Lott	Murkowski
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The amendment (No. 3093) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I move to lay that motion on the table.

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

The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3064

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the yeas and nays be vitiated on the Collins amendment No. 3064, and I ask unanimous consent that it be agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3064) was agreed to.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3148, 3127, AND 3047  
WITHDRAWN

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am prepared to withdraw my amendment No. 3148 and Senator HAGEL is also prepared to have his amendment No. 3127 withdrawn. We are also prepared to withdraw Lincoln amendment No. 3047. We have managed to work out an understanding on all of these matters, so I ask unanimous consent to have those amendments withdrawn.

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

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, it is also our understanding that Senator GRASSLEY would not offer his amendment that was the matching amendment to the Lincoln amendment that has now been withdrawn.

Mr. GREGG. Under the previous agreement, Mr. President, we are now going to turn to the Lincoln amendment No. 3106, followed by the Kerry amendment No. 4103, followed by the DeMint amendment No. 3087.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3106

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate equally divided.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, in this administration's budget, time and time

again rural America has been asked to give disproportionately, whether it is to deficit reduction, the war in Iraq, or anything else. Quite frankly, I think it is important for us to look seriously at the priorities of this budget but, more importantly, to look at rural America and what it means to the fabric of this country.

There are cuts in this budget to supplemental nutrition programs for women, infants, and children. USDA's rural housing program is cut by \$259 million, resource conservation and development council, world business enterprise grant, telemedicine, State and private forestry programs, cooperative agriculture and food safety research units—all of these issues are critical to rural America. They don't have the corporate tax base or corporate citizenry out there that is going to support them.

If we want the way of life in this country to be maintained with both the fabric of this country being built by our urban areas and our rural areas, it is essential that we support the people and the working families in those areas.

I ask my colleagues to look at conservation, WIC, all of these programs and how important they are in your State.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I regrettably rise in opposition to this amendment. The Senator from Arkansas and I normally agree on every issue involving agriculture. Philosophically, I am with her. But the problem is it raises the cap a little over \$2 billion. It is simply not paid for. The things she is seeking to add money for such as research, nutrition, various rural development programs, all are great programs, but the time to handle that is in the appropriations process, not in the budget process. This means we would either have to raise taxes or increase the deficit, and now is not the time to have that debate. I think it should be in the appropriations process. I urge a "no" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3106.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 52, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 66 Leg.]

## YEAS—48

Akaka	Durbin	Menendez
Baucus	Feingold	Mikulski
Bayh	Feinstein	Murray
Biden	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Inouye	Nelson (NE)
Boxer	Jeffords	Obama
Burns	Johnson	Pryor
Byrd	Kennedy	Reed
Cantwell	Kerry	Reid
Carper	Kohl	Rockefeller
Clinton	Landrieu	Salazar
Collins	Lautenberg	Sarbanes
Conrad	Leahy	Schumer
Dayton	Levin	Snowe
Dodd	Lieberman	Stabenow
Dorgan	Lincoln	Wyden

## NAYS—52

Alexander	Dole	McConnell
Allard	Domenici	Murkowski
Allen	Ensign	Roberts
Bennett	Enzi	Santorum
Bond	Frist	Sessions
Brownback	Graham	Shelby
Bunning	Grassley	Smith
Burr	Gregg	Specter
Chafee	Hagel	Stevens
Chambliss	Hatch	Sununu
Coburn	Hutchison	Talent
Cochran	Inhofe	Thomas
Coleman	Isakson	Thune
Cornyn	Kyl	Vitter
Craig	Lott	Voinovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner
DeMint	Martinez	
DeWine	McCain	

The amendment (No. 3106) was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3143, AS MODIFIED

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent my modification be accepted at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is so modified.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

(Purpose: To prevent the imposition of excessive TRICARE fees and co-pays on military retirees)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$592,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,619,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$2,188,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$2,685,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by \$3,271,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$592,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,619,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$2,188,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$2,685,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$3,271,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$735,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,862,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$2,322,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, increase the amount by \$2,816,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, increase the amount by \$3,424,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$592,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$1,619,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$2,188,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$2,685,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$3,271,000,000.

On page 9, line 20, increase the amount by \$735,000,000.

On page 9, line 21, increase the amount by \$592,000,000.

On page 9, line 24, increase the amount by \$1,862,000,000.

On page 9, line 25, increase the amount by \$1,619,000,000.

On page 10, line 3, increase the amount by \$2,322,000,000.

On page 10, line 4, increase the amount by \$2,188,000,000.

On page 10, line 7, increase the amount by \$2,816,000,000.

On page 10, line 8, increase the amount by \$2,685,000,000.

On page 10, line 11, increase the amount by \$3,424,000,000.

On page 10, line 12, increase the amount by \$3,271,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by \$735,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$592,000,000.

On page 53, line 4, increase the amount by \$1,862,000,000.

On page 53, line 7, increase the amount by \$2,322,000,000.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, the Bush budget triples the fees for officers who are retired under the age of 65 who put in their 20 years of service, and doubles the fees and copays for senior enlisted folks, again, after their 20 years of service to the country.

There are several other ways to cover the costs of increased health care under TRICARE. We could stimulate the use of lower cost mail-order pharmacies. We could negotiate with drug manufacturers who secure discounts under TRICARE, which we don't do. You don't have to take it out of the hide of the retirees themselves. We pay for this. It is paid for by closing a number of tax loopholes and it is fully paid for so we do not have to raise copays on retirees who put in 20 years of service in uniform.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Massachusetts for highlighting an issue that is important to the Armed Services Committee, the authorizing committee. A lot of work is already going on to deal with this problem. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Peter Pace, said rising health care costs are the No. 1 issue when he spoke to our committee.

This amendment would cost \$10.4 billion over 5 years and result in an increase in taxes by that amount. The authorizing committee does need to focus on it and is focusing on this issue.

I ask the amendment be defeated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment, as modified. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 53, as follows:

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 67 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Akaka	Byrd	DeWine
Baucus	Cantwell	Dodd
Bayh	Chafee	Dorgan
Biden	Clinton	Durbin
Bingaman	Conrad	Feingold
Boxer	Dayton	Feinstein

Harkin	Levin	Reed
Inouye	Lieberman	Reid
Jeffords	Lincoln	Rockefeller
Johnson	Menendez	Salazar
Kennedy	Mikulski	Sarbanes
Kerry	Murray	Schumer
Kohl	Nelson (FL)	Stabenow
Landrieu	Nelson (NE)	Wyden
Lautenberg	Obama	
Leahy	Pryor	

NAYS—53

Alexander	Dole	McConnell
Allard	Domenici	Murkowski
Allen	Ensign	Roberts
Bennett	Enzi	Santorum
Bond	Frist	Sessions
Brownback	Graham	Shelby
Bunning	Grassley	Smith
Burr	Gregg	Snowe
Carper	Hagel	Specter
Chambliss	Hatch	Stevens
Coburn	Hutchison	Sununu
Cochran	Inhofe	Talent
Coleman	Isakson	Thomas
Collins	Kyl	Thune
Cornyn	Lott	Vitter
Craig	Lugar	Voinovich
Crapo	Martinez	Warner
DeMint	McCain	

NOT VOTING—1

Burns

The amendment (No. 3143), as modified, was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, we have made significant progress in reducing the number of amendments. This is the good news—really dramatic progress. The bad news is, with the amendments that are still pending we will be here until 2 o'clock in the morning.

It is in the hands of Members of this body. If everybody sticks to their guns and insists on their amendments, we are going to be here until 2 o'clock in the morning.

I ask colleagues to please show some forbearance. We have other vehicles that are coming—the appropriations bills—and other opportunities to make Members' views known.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I appreciate the especially hard work of the Senator from North Dakota in reducing the number of amendments. I just wish we had been a little more successful because we will be here until 2 o'clock in the morning at the rate we are going.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3144, 3085, 3140, 3139, 3053, 3079, 3083, 3033; 3052, AS MODIFIED, 3154, AND 3059, EN BLOC

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, in an effort to try to move things along, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be considered and agreed to en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table:

Senator OBAMA's amendment No. 3144; Senator ENSIGN, amendment No. 3085; Senator LEVIN, amendment No. 3140; Senator LANDRIEU, amendment No. 3139; Senator LINCOLN, amendment No. 3053; Senator DEWINE, amendment No. 3079; Senator DEWINE, amendment No. 3083; Senator DEWINE, amendment No. 3033; Senator SANTORUM, amendment No. 3052, as modified; Senator LEAHY, amendment No. 3154; and Senator BAUCUS, amendment No. 3059.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we don't have on our list the amendment of the Senator from Pennsylvania.

I am told that is OK. That has been cleared on both sides.

Mr. COBURN. I object.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I renew my unanimous consent request reflecting all those amendments which have been read except for amendment No. 3052 of Mr. SANTORUM.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Objection, the amendments are agreed to.

The amendments were agreed to as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3144

(Purpose: To provide a \$40 million increase in FY 2007 for the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and to improve job services for hard-to-place veterans)

On page 23, line 24, increase the amount by \$40,000,000.

On page 23, line 25, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 24, line 4, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 24, line 8, increase the amount by \$6,000,000.

On page 24, line 12, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 24, line 16, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$40,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$6,000,000.

On page 28, line 8, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 28, line 11, decrease the amount by \$1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3085

(Purpose: To provide funding to hire an additional 500 Border Patrol Agents; fully funding the promise Congress made to the American people to hire 2,000 new agents in FY2007 as authorized by the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004 and as recommended by the 9/11 Commission)

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$153,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by \$122,400,000.

On page 25, line 4, increase the amount by \$15,300,000.

On page 25, line 8, increase the amount by \$15,300,000.

On page 10, line 20, decrease the amount by \$153,000,000.

On page 10, line 21, decrease the amount by \$122,400,000.

On page 10, line 25, decrease the amount by \$15,300,000.

On page 11, line 4, decrease the amount by \$15,300,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3140

(Purpose: To provide funds to establish additional Northern Border Air Wings, offset through reductions in Function 920)

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$6,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by \$4,000,000.

On page 25, line 4, increase the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$6,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$4,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3139

(Purpose: To provide funding for maintaining a robust long range bomber force including 94 B-52 aircraft)

On page 9, line 20, increase the amount by \$77,000,000.

On page 9, line 21, increase the amount by \$43,000,000.

On page 9, line 24, increase the amount by \$239,000,000.

On page 9, line 25, increase the amount by \$188,000,000.

On page 10, line 3, increase the amount by \$270,000,000.

On page 10, line 4, increase the amount by \$238,000,000.

On page 10, line 7, increase the amount by \$217,000,000.

On page 10, line 8, increase the amount by \$240,000,000.

On page 10, line 11, increase the amount by \$263,000,000.

On page 10, line 12, increase the amount by \$246,000,000.

On page 10, line 20, decrease the amount by \$77,000,000.

On page 10, line 21, decrease the amount by \$43,000,000.

On page 10, line 24, decrease the amount by \$239,000,000.

On page 10, line 25, decrease the amount by \$188,000,000.

On page 11, line 3, decrease the amount by \$270,000,000.

On page 11, line 4, decrease the amount by \$238,000,000.

On page 11, line 7, decrease the amount by \$217,000,000.

On page 11, line 8, decrease the amount by \$240,000,000.

On page 11, line 11, decrease the amount by \$263,000,000.

On page 11, line 12, decrease the amount by \$246,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3053

(Purpose: To provide for restoring funding for the portion of the COPS program devoted to countering methamphetamine, offset by a reduction to Function 920 (Allowances))

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 25, line 3, increase the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 25, line 4, increase the amount by \$9,000,000.

On page 25, line 7, increase the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 25, line 8, increase the amount by \$15,000,000.

On page 25, line 11, increase the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 25, line 12, increase the amount by \$20,000,000.

On page 25, line 15, increase the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 25, line 16, increase the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 28, line 1, decrease the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$9,000,000.

On page 28, line 4, decrease the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$15,000,000.

On page 28, line 7, decrease the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 28, line 8, decrease the amount by \$20,000,000.

On page 28, line 10, decrease the amount by \$23,000,000.

On page 28, line 11, decrease the amount by \$23,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3079

(Purpose: To increase funding for Child Survival and Maternal Health Programs)

On page 10, line 20, increase the amount by \$77,000,000.

On page 10, line 21, increase the amount by \$77,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$77,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$77,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3083

(Purpose: To increase funding for the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program under the Public Health Service Act for fiscal year 2007)

On page 19, line 24, increase the amount by \$198,000,000.

On page 19, line 25, increase the amount by \$198,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$198,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$198,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3033

(Purpose: To increase funding for NASA aeronautics programs by \$179,000,000 in fiscal year 2007, with an offset)

On page 11, line 21, increase the amount by \$179,000,000.

On page 11, line 22, increase the amount by \$179,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$179,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$179,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3154

(Purpose: To fund grants for bullet proof vests for local law enforcement agencies at the full authorized level)

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$41,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 25, line 4, increase the amount by \$11,000,000.

On page 25, line 8, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 25, line 12, increase the amount by \$8,000,000.

On page 25, line 16, increase the amount by \$6,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$41,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$11,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 28, line 8, decrease the amount by \$8,000,000.

On page 28, line 11, decrease the amount by \$6,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3059

(Purpose: To improve America's economic competitiveness)

At the end of section 309, insert the following:

(d) FINANCE.—If—

(1) the Committee on Finance of the Senate reports a bill or joint resolution, or if an amendment is offered thereto, or if a conference report is submitted thereon, that—

(A) improves America's trade competitiveness or enforcement; or

(B) fosters health care information technology or pay-for-performance; and

(2) that committee is within its allocation as provided under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; the chairman of the Committee on the Budget may make the appropriate adjustments in allocations and aggregates to the extent that such legislation would not increase the deficit for fiscal year 2007 and for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

## AMENDMENTS NOS 3155 AND 3156

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following two amendments which have not been filed be considered and agreed to en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table:

Senator SALAZAR on PILT, and Senator STABENOW on borders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

## AMENDMENT NO. 3155

(Purpose: To fully fund the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. Adds \$152 million to Function 800 (General Government) for PILT)

On page 25, line 24, increase the amount by \$152,000,000.

On page 25, line 25, increase the amount by \$152,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$152,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$152,000,000.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3156

(Purpose: To protect the American People from terrorist attacks and threats to public health by collecting a fee for inspection exclusively of international trash shipments at the U.S. border generating \$45 million in receipts. The fee will help defray the cost of increasing the number and quality of inspections of these potentially dangerous shipments at the border. The fee for inspection service will be implemented to be fully compliant with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and other applicable trade agreements)

On page 24, line 24, decrease the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, decrease the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 25, line 3, decrease the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 25, line 4, decrease the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 25, line 7, decrease the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 25, line 8, decrease the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 25, line 11, decrease the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 25, line 12, decrease the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 25, line 15, decrease the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 25, line 16, decrease the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, increase the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, increase the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 28, line 1, increase the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, increase the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 28, line 4, increase the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, increase the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 28, line 7, increase the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 28, line 8, increase the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 28, line 10, increase the amount by \$45,000,000.

On page 28, line 11, increase the amount by \$45,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3087, AS MODIFIED

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I now believe that we are on the amendment by Senator DEMINT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

AMENDMENT NO. 3087, AS MODIFIED

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I have a modified amendment that I would like to send to the desk

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Carolina [Mr. DEMINT] proposes an amendment numbered 3087, as modified.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:  
At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ . RESERVE FUND FOR SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM.

If the Committee on Finance of the Senate reports a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment is offered thereto, or a conference report is submitted thereon, that provides changes to the Federal Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance Benefits Program established under title II of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.), by—

(1) requiring that the Federal Old Age and Survivors Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund are used to finance expenditures to provide retirement and disability income of future beneficiaries of such program;

(2) ensuring that there is no change to current law scheduled benefits for individuals born before January 1, 1950;

(3) providing the option to voluntarily obtain legally binding ownership of at least some portion of each participant's benefits; and

(4) ensuring that the funds made available to finance such legislation do not exceed the amounts of the Chief Actuary of the Social Security Administration's intermediate actuarial estimates of the Federal Old Age and Survivors Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, as published in the most recent report of the Board of Trustees of such Trust Funds, the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may make the appropriate adjustments in allocations and aggregates to the extent that such legislation would not increase the deficit for fiscal year 2007 and for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. President, the amendment I have sent to the desk adds a reserve fund to the budget resolution for Social Security that would allow Congress to begin saving Social Security surpluses for future Social Security recipients.

If the Finance Committee does not report back, then nothing happens. The amendment does nothing to change Social Security—no privatization, no

stock market investment, and it does not add to the deficit.

The amendment only creates a budget mechanism to allow Congress to consider ways to begin saving the Social Security surplus.

I suspect most Members of this body, Republican and Democrat, are on record on the Senate floor or in a campaign saying that it is wrong to spend the Social Security surplus on other Government programs.

While we don't yet agree on how to fix Social Security, every Member and I believe every American knows that it is wrong to continue to spend Social Security taxes on other Government programs.

This amendment would open the door to consider ways to stop spending Social Security money.

I ask for the yeas and nays.  
The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.  
Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I yield the time on this side to the Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President my colleagues are not being fooled. This is privatization of Social Security. Turn to page 29, paragraph 3. It so provides.

We have already gone down the road on privatization of Social Security.

The so-called surplus that the Senator referred to is just to privatize Social Security.

The American public said no to privatizing Social Security. The President has realized that it is a bad idea. The Congress should realize it. It is a bad idea. The AARP sure knows it is a bad idea. I have a letter from the AARP. Let me read from it. They say:

AARP strongly opposes this attempt to resurrect a proposal that the American public has soundly rejected.

This is privatization of Social Security, pure and simple. The Senate should reject it as the American people have rejected it.

I ask unanimous consent that the letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

AARP

Washington, DC, March 16, 2006.

Hon. HARRY REID,  
Minority Leader, Capitol Office Building,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR REID: The Senate will vote on an amendment to S. Con. Res. 83 offered by Senator DeMint to use annual Social Security surpluses to create private accounts. AARP strongly opposes this attempt to resurrect a proposal that the American public has soundly rejected.

AARP believes this proposal has serious consequences for our nation's overall fiscal health and Social Security's long-term outlook. Ostensibly designed to "stop the raid on the surplus", the proposal would still result in the Treasury Department receiving the money to spend on its needs, but the federal deficit and debt would increase by over \$700 billion over the next ten years. Our nation cannot afford this unnecessary increase in its already large federal debt, and we should not ask future generations to pay for the added cost.

Social Security faces a long-term financial shortfall that we should address in a timely manner, but private accounts do nothing to address long-term solvency. AARP believes it is time to put aside polarizing ideas that do not work and get serious about securing Social Security so future generations can count on these important benefits.

Sincerely,  
DAVID P. SLOANE,  
Senior Managing Director, Government  
Relations & Advocacy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment. The yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 53, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 68 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Alexander	DeWine	McCain
Allard	Dole	McConnell
Allen	Ensign	Murkowski
Bennett	Enzi	Roberts
Bond	Frist	Santorum
Brownback	Graham	Sessions
Bunning	Grassley	Shelby
Burr	Gregg	Specter
Chambliss	Hagel	Stevens
Coburn	Hatch	Sununu
Cochran	Hutchison	Thomas
Coleman	Inhofe	Thune
Cornyn	Isakson	Vitter
Craig	Kyl	Warner
Crapo	Lott	
DeMint	Martinez	

NAYS—53

Akaka	Durbin	Mikulski
Baucus	Feingold	Murray
Bayh	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Harkin	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Inouye	Obama
Boxer	Jeffords	Pryor
Burns	Johnson	Reed
Byrd	Kennedy	Reid
Cantwell	Kerry	Rockefeller
Carper	Kohl	Salazar
Chafee	Landrieu	Sarbanes
Clinton	Lautenberg	Schumer
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Conrad	Levin	Snowe
Dayton	Lieberman	Stabenow
Dodd	Lincoln	Talent
Domenici	Lugar	Wyden
Dorgan	Menendez	

NOT VOTING—1

Voinovich

The amendment (No. 3087), as modified, was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. I understand the Senator from Nebraska will offer an amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 3116 WITHDRAWN

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, many of our colleagues would be surprised to learn, as I was, that some agencies are skimming off the top a portion of some of the congressional appropriations and keeping money in that agency without authorization.

This amendment is simple. It says if it has been determined that a constituency warrants a direct appropriation,

one that has gone through the scrutinizing process and is supported by the House, Senate, and signed into law, that constituency should receive the full amount. Bureaucrats at the agencies, who are not the fourth branch of Government, should not be unilaterally determining that some sort of surcharge should be charged against these projects. It amounts to a tax on our constituents, and it usurps the authority of Congress by circumventing the legislative process and giving nameless, faceless bureaucrats the authority to alter legislation after it has been signed into law.

We have every right to expect that what we appropriate will be 100 percent provided when we determine that is the way it is, unless we determine otherwise. And in the situation where our constituents determine that the full amount of the earmark is not needed and turns back some of the funding to the government—this amendment says that instead of going to bureaucrats in the agencies to spend as they wish—it should instead go towards deficit reduction.

I am withdrawing my amendment at this time for the sake of time. But we will all see this amendment again because I will bring it back.

Mr. GREGG. We turn to the Senator from Minnesota.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3097

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I call up amendment numbered 3097 and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Minnesota [Mr. DAYTON], for himself, Mr. DODD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. CLINTON, proposes an amendment numbered 3097.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide mandatory funding to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B grants to states; paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$230,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$7,591,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$3,450,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$230,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$230,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$7,591,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$3,450,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$230,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$11,501,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$230,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$7,591,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$3,450,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$230,000,000.

On page 18, line 24, increase the amount by \$11,501,000,000.

On page 18, line 25, increase the amount by \$230,000,000.

On page 19, line 4, increase the amount by \$7,591,000,000.

On page 19, line 8, increase the amount by \$3,450,000,000.

On page 19, line 12, increase the amount by \$230,000,000.

Mr. DAYTON. I ask unanimous consent Senators MENENDEZ and CLINTON be added as cosponsors of this amendment.

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

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, this amendment is a unique concept. It says the Senate will fulfill a 29-year-old commitment to fund 40 percent of the costs of special education. I appreciate the amendment of the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. CHAFEE, which was adopted by the Senate to bring us to 20 percent, which is half of that goal. That is an improvement.

But if we were to say the Defense Department was half funded, or national security or homeland security were half funded, we would find a reason to immediately increase that funding. So I respectfully submit that closing tax loopholes for corporations that are not paying taxes now and providing that money for special education for our students across this country is a worthy goal.

I urge adoption of the amendment. I will accept a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEMINT). The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I yield back time in opposition and ask that we proceed to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3097) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the yeas and nays were ordered on that amendment they would be vitiated.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays were not ordered.

Mr. GREGG. Good.

Mr. President, we will now turn to the Boxer amendment, No. 3105; followed by the Bingaman amendment, No. 3121; followed by the Nelson amendment, No. 3001; followed by the Feinstein amendment, No. 3067; followed by the Stabenow amendment, No. 3118; followed by the Santorum amendment, No. 3052; followed by the Domenici amendment, No. 3128. And we reserve the right to offer an amendment after the Nelson amendment but before the Feinstein amendment relative to the same topic as the Nelson amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

## AMENDMENT NO. 3105

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3105 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] proposes an amendment numbered 3105.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Center program; paid for by rolling back tax cuts for those with incomes over \$1 million)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$15,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$435,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$225,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$75,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$15,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$435,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$225,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$75,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$750,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$15,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$435,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$225,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$75,000,000.

On page 18, line 24, increase the amount by \$750,000,000.

On page 18, line 25, increase the amount by \$15,000,000.

On page 19, line 4, increase the amount by \$435,000,000.

On page 19, line 8, increase the amount by \$225,000,000.

On page 19, line 12, increase the amount by \$75,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by \$750,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$15,000,000.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I call this amendment the "Gucci afterschool amendment" because we are asking millionaires to give up one Gucci jacket or \$2,000 out of their \$114,000 tax cut they are going to get in 2007 so we can offer 716,000 additional children an afterschool program.

This amendment begins to fulfill the promise this President and this Congress made to our children. It will mean a big difference in every Senator's children's lives. In other words, I am looking at Senators all across this country. Every one of their States will see an increase of eligible children: in Alaska, 3,000 more children; in Florida, 33,000 more; in Indiana, 9,000 more; in Maine, 3,000 more—and it goes on—in New Hampshire, 3,000 more; in Ohio, 20,000 more; in Pennsylvania, 27,000 more; in Texas, 68,000 more.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mrs. BOXER. So I think the people earning \$1 million can give up a Gucci jacket to send more children to afterschool. I urge an "aye" vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, first, we have already approved an extra \$7 billion for these accounts here this

evening. In addition, in the budget we brought forward, we added \$1.5 billion for these accounts.

This amendment is very much in the tradition of tax and spend. As the Senator from California openly admits, she wants to raise taxes significantly to pay for this new spending. But we have already committed significant dollars into these accounts, and I do not think it is necessary. So I hope we vote this amendment down.

Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 43, nays 57, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 69 Leg.]

YEAS—43

Akaka	Harkin	Murray
Bayh	Inouye	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Jeffords	Obama
Bingaman	Johnson	Pryor
Boxer	Kennedy	Reed
Byrd	Kerry	Reid
Cantwell	Kohl	Rockefeller
Clinton	Landrieu	Salazar
Conrad	Lautenberg	Sarbanes
Dayton	Leahy	Schumer
Dodd	Levin	Snowe
Dorgan	Lieberman	Stabenow
Durbin	Lincoln	Wyden
Feingold	Menendez	
Feinstein	Mikulski	

NAYS—57

Alexander	Crapo	Martinez
Allard	DeMint	McCain
Allen	DeWine	McConnell
Baucus	Dole	Murkowski
Bennett	Domenici	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Ensign	Roberts
Brownback	Enzi	Santorum
Bunning	Frist	Sessions
Burns	Graham	Shelby
Burr	Grassley	Smith
Carper	Gregg	Specter
Chafee	Hagel	Stevens
Chambliss	Hatch	Sununu
Coburn	Hutchison	Talent
Cochran	Inhofe	Thomas
Coleman	Isakson	Thune
Collins	Kyl	Vitter
Cornyn	Lott	Voivovich
Craig	Lugar	Warner

The amendment (No. 3105) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. I move to reconsider the vote and to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3121

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, this amendment is one Senator SMITH and I are offering to delete section 406 from the budget resolution. Section 406 does for direct spending legislation exactly what the Senate determined not to do with discretionary spending about an hour and a half ago on the Inhofe amendment. It says that for any bill that contains direct spending, a 60-vote point of order can be raised against it. That includes the Defense bill, the

farm bill, a tremendous number of bills that we try to pass through the Senate every year. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and delete that section from the budget resolution.

I yield the rest of my time to Senator SMITH.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, with reluctance I rise in opposition to this particular provision, but my reluctance vanishes when I consider the programs this would automatically affect—not just Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare but the farm program, county payments, Indian water rights, all the things that are dealt with under entitlements. I think we need to deal with those eventually as Republicans and Democrats and as Americans. We should not do it on the basis of this particular formula.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Has the Senator from New Mexico offered the amendment?

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I do offer the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN], for himself and Mr. SMITH, proposes an amendment numbered 3121.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strike the direct spending limitation)

Strike section 406.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, the characterization of this amendment has been totally inaccurate. In fact, I haven't heard as inaccurate a characterization of an amendment today, and we have heard a lot of talk today. This amendment doesn't do what was just represented. What this amendment does is, it says that for any 2-year period the trustees of the Medicare trust fund tell us that over 45 percent of the cost of Medicare or another entitlement—but it would probably be Medicare—is coming out of the general fund. Remember, Medicare is supposed to be an insurance fund; this is part A. Then at that point, there is an opportunity to raise a point of order against new entitlement spending. It specifically excludes Social Security.

The fact is, this is a point of order which will probably not come into play for many years, but it is an attempt to address what is a looming problem, which is that Medicare is taking more and more assets out of the general fund rather than being paid through the insurance process. It is good budget discipline.

Mr. CONRAD. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3121. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant journal clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 70 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Akaka	Durbin	Mikulski
Baucus	Feingold	Murray
Bayh	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Harkin	Obama
Bingaman	Inouye	Pryor
Boxer	Jeffords	Reed
Byrd	Johnson	Reid
Cantwell	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Carper	Kerry	Salazar
Chafee	Kohl	Sarbanes
Clinton	Landrieu	Schumer
Collins	Lautenberg	Smith
Conrad	Leahy	Snowe
Dayton	Levin	Specter
DeWine	Lieberman	Stabenow
Dodd	Lincoln	Wyden
Dorgan	Menendez	

NAYS—50

Alexander	Dole	McCain
Allard	Domenici	McConnell
Allen	Ensign	Murkowski
Bennett	Enzi	Nelson (NE)
Bond	Frist	Roberts
Brownback	Graham	Santorum
Bunning	Grassley	Sessions
Burns	Gregg	Shelby
Burr	Hagel	Stevens
Chambliss	Hatch	Sununu
Coburn	Hutchison	Talent
Cochran	Inhofe	Thomas
Coleman	Isakson	Thune
Cornyn	Kyl	Vitter
Craig	Lott	Voivovich
Crapo	Lugar	Warner
DeMint	Martinez	

The amendment (No. 3121) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. It is my understanding that by unanimous consent my amendment is next in order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Do I need to call up amendment No. 3001?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator does.

AMENDMENT NO. 3001

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3001.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida [Mr. NELSON] proposes an amendment numbered 3001.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide funds ensuring Survivor Benefit Plan annuities are not reduced by the amount of dependency and indemnity compensation that military families receive, and to provide funds for "paid-up" SBP, offset by closing abusive corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$975,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,037,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$792,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$826,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by \$861,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$975,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$1,037,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$792,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$826,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$861,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$975,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, increase the amount by \$1,037,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$792,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, increase the amount by \$826,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, increase the amount by \$861,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$975,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$1,037,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$792,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$826,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$861,000,000.

On page 9, line 20, increase the amount by \$975,000,000.

On page 9, line 21, increase the amount by \$975,000,000.

On page 9, line 24, increase the amount by \$1,037,000,000.

On page 9, line 25, increase the amount by \$1,037,000,000.

On page 10, line 3, increase the amount by \$792,000,000.

On page 10, line 4, increase the amount by \$792,000,000.

On page 10, line 7, increase the amount by \$826,000,000.

On page 10, line 8, increase the amount by \$826,000,000.

On page 10, line 11, increase the amount by \$861,000,000.

On page 10, line 12, increase the amount by \$861,000,000.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, am I allocated 1 minute?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, this is the widows or orphans amendment. You have already voted on this, 92 to 6, last fall. It is eliminating the offset between two different programs taking care of widows and orphans. It is a cost of war, just as providing equipment and ammunition. It is a cost of war to take care of our widows or orphans.

On the one hand, the service member pays for taking care of the survivors in the survivors benefit plan. On the other hand, the Veterans Department takes care of the dependents indemnity compensation. But those two are offset in current law. This eliminates the offset. I urge you to support the widows and the orphans.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, would the Senator agree to a voice vote?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. The Senator will agree to a voice vote as long as it

passes favorably. I expect the Senator is being advised that since the Senate is on record with a 92-to-6 vote, there will be a voice vote.

Mr. GREGG. Why don't we do a voice vote.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. That is acceptable to me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment of the Senator from Florida.

The amendment (No. 3001) was agreed to.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. GREGG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3164

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Michigan [Ms. STABENOW] proposes an amendment numbered 3164.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To establish a reserve fund to allow for deficit-neutral legislation that would provide seniors with a prescription drug benefit option that is affordable, user-friendly, and administered directly by the Secretary of Health and Human Services)

At the end of title III, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . RESERVE FUND TO ALLOW FOR DEFICIT-NEUTRAL LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PROVIDE SENIORS WITH A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT OPTION THAT IS AFFORDABLE, USER-FRIENDLY, AND ADMINISTERED DIRECTLY BY THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that would—

(1) provide all Medicare beneficiaries with a Medicare-administered prescription drug plan option, while preserving the private prescription drug plan options;

(2) ensure that Medicare beneficiaries pay the lowest possible prescription drug prices by directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate with pharmaceutical manufacturers with respect to the purchase price of covered part D drugs on behalf of beneficiaries enrolled in the Medicare-administered prescription drug plan;

(3) improve the part D standard prescription drug benefit; and

(4) guarantee that Medicare beneficiaries receive the FDA-approved drugs they need by preventing prescription drug plans and MA-PD plans from ending coverage of drugs, or imposing restrictions or limitations on coverage of drugs, that were covered when the beneficiary enrolled in the plan until the beneficiary has the opportunity to switch plans, with an exception to such guarantee for brand name drugs for which there is a generic drug approved under section 505(j) of the Food and Drug Cosmetic Act that is

placed on the market during the period in which the guarantee applies;

by the amount provided in such measure for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, this amendment would create a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide seniors with the one prescription drug choice that they want, which they don't currently have, and that is an affordable prescription drug benefit administered directly through Medicare.

As you know, the current system has a lot of headaches right now. There are a lot of private plans—over 70 in Michigan—and there has been mass confusion. A lot of folks are actually paying more for drugs under this Part D program than they were before.

My amendment would give our seniors a new option, a Medicare-guaranteed option. Seniors today can get their Part A and Part B benefits either through a private plan or a traditional Medicare benefit plan. But they don't have that choice for their medicine. This would give them that choice. It would also direct the Secretary of HHS to negotiate drug prices on behalf of seniors choosing to get their medicines through Medicare.

This amendment simply gives seniors and disabled persons the real choice they want, which is a Medicare prescription drug benefit, where you go to Medicare and you can sign up and you know the copay and the premium. You go to the pharmacy and get your medicine. I ask for your support.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is beyond my understanding when the argument is made that this program is too confusing because there are too many plans, and then you add yet another plan. That is what this amendment does. They say there is too much confusion and there are too many plans, and they want to add another plan.

This amendment is going to destroy the competitive incentives and replace them with a Government-controlled regime. It puts the Government into the full-time business of setting drug prices and determining what drugs are covered. Strong competition has led to lower costs. The average premium is \$25. That is 20 percent less than we expected.

This amendment would result in higher premiums. This amendment would also have a drug safety issue with it. This amendment would force plans to keep unsafe drugs in the formulary because what is on at the first of the year has to stay on through the whole year. So if Vioxx was on in January 2004 and was found unsafe in September 2004, it would still have to be on the formulary for another 3 months.

This is a Government-run plan. It increases costs and has price controls and unsafe drugs. This is just not a good amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). The Senator's time has expired. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3164.

Ms. STABENOW. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. BENNETT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 39, nays 60, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 71 Leg.]

YEAS—39

Akaka	Feingold	Mikulski
Bayh	Feinstein	Murray
Biden	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Inouye	Obama
Boxer	Johnson	Pryor
Byrd	Kennedy	Reed
Cantwell	Kerry	Reid
Clinton	Kohl	Rockefeller
Conrad	Lautenberg	Salazar
Dayton	Leahy	Sarbanes
Dodd	Levin	Schumer
Dorgan	Lieberman	Stabenow
Durbin	Lincoln	Wyden

NAYS—60

Alexander	DeWine	McCain
Allard	Dole	McConnell
Allen	Domenici	Menendez
Baucus	Ensign	Murkowski
Bond	Enzi	Nelson (NE)
Brownback	Frist	Roberts
Bunning	Graham	Santorum
Burns	Grassley	Sessions
Burr	Gregg	Shelby
Carper	Hagel	Smith
Chafee	Hatch	Snowe
Chambliss	Hutchison	Specter
Coburn	Inhofe	Stevens
Cochran	Isakson	Sununu
Coleman	Jeffords	Talent
Collins	Kyl	Thomas
Cornyn	Landrieu	Thune
Craig	Lott	Vitter
Crapo	Lugar	Voivovich
DeMint	Martinez	Warner

NOT VOTING—1

Bennett

The amendment (No. 3164) was rejected.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, at this point we are going to go to Senator AKAKA.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, if we could ask colleagues' indulgence for a few more minutes here, we are very close. We have made enormous progress in the last 20 minutes, 30 minutes. We are very close. If we could have colleagues' indulgence for a few more minutes, we could rapidly come to conclusion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3044

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3044 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA], for himself and Mr. INOUE, proposes an amendment numbered 3044.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$80,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$50,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by \$40,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$80,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$50,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$40,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, increase the amount by \$80,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 4, line 19, increase the amount by \$50,000,000.

On page 4, line 21, increase the amount by \$40,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$80,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$50,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$40,000,000.

On page 23, line 24, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 23, line 25, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 24, line 3, increase the amount by \$80,000,000.

On page 24, line 4, increase the amount by \$80,000,000.

On page 24, line 7, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 24, line 8, increase the amount by \$70,000,000.

On page 24, line 11, increase the amount by \$50,000,000.

On page 24, line 12, increase the amount by \$50,000,000.

On page 24, line 15, increase the amount by \$40,000,000.

On page 24, line 16, increase the amount by \$40,000,000.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, my amendment would provide nonservice-connected pensions to Filipino veterans of World War II. In 1941, President Roosevelt issued an Executive order which called into the order of the Armed Forces of the United States all organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines. These veterans fought alongside American troops and were commanded by General MacArthur. There was no question when they were fighting that they

would be treated the same as American troops. Congress betrayed these veterans by enacting the Rescission Act which deemed the service of soldiers of the Commonwealth Army of the Philippines not to be service in the United States military. This was after they already served with the U.S. military. These veterans have been waiting for 60 years to have their benefits reinstated. It is time that the United States fulfill its responsibility to these veterans.

I yield back my time.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I believe we can go to a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3044.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3044.

The amendment (No. 3044) was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 3052

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3052 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM], for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DAYTON, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. CLINTON, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. SARBANES and Mr. KERRY, proposes an amendment numbered 3052.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To continue providing 33 percent of the Global Fund's revenue and to contribute an additional \$566,000,000 to the Global Fund for fiscal year 2007 to support grant renewals and new proposals to support international HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs)

On page 10, line 20, increase the amount by \$566,000,000.

On page 10, line 21, increase the amount by \$566,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$566,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$566,000,000.

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_ UNITED STATES RESPONSE TO GLOBAL HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The HIV/AIDS pandemic has reached staggering proportions. Over 40,000,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, and 5,000,000 more people become infected each year. HIV/AIDS is estimated to kill 3,000,000 men, women, and children each year.

(2) The United States was the first, and remains the largest, contributor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (referred to in this section as the "Global Fund").

(3) The Presidential Administration of George W. Bush (referred to in this section as the "Administration") has supported legislative language that links United States contributions to the Global Fund to the contributions of other donors, permitting the United States to provide 33 percent of all donations, which would match contributions on a 1-to-2 basis.

(4) As of the date of the approval of this Resolution, Congress has provided 1/3 of all donations to the Global Fund since its inception.

(5) The Global Fund currently estimates that during fiscal year 2007, it will renew \$1,600,000,000 worth of effective programs that are already operating on the ground, and the Administration and Global Fund Board have said that renewals of existing grants should receive priority funding.

(6) The Global Fund estimates that during fiscal year 2007, it could award \$1,000,000,000 in funding to proposals submitted for Round 6.

(7) For fiscal year 2007, the President has requested \$300,000,000 for the United States contribution to the Global Fund.

(8) The Global Fund is an important component of the United States efforts to combat AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, and supports approximately 350 projects in 130 countries.

(9) Through a mid-year review process, Congress and the Administration will assess contributions to date and anticipated contributions to the Global Fund, and ensure that United States contributions, at year end, are at the appropriate 1-to-2 ratio.

(10) Congress and the Administration will monitor contributions to the Global Fund to ensure that United States contributions do not exceed 1/3 of the Global Fund's revenues.

(11) The United States will need to contribute \$566,000,000 more than the President's fiscal year 2007 request for the Global Fund to—

(A) fund 1/3 of renewals during fiscal year 2007;

(B) support at least 1 new round of proposals in fiscal year 2007; and

(C) maintain the 1-to-2 funding ratio.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Senator SANTORUM and I come to the floor today to offer our amendment to increase funding for global AIDS by \$566 million, raising the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria for fiscal year 2007 to \$866 million. This amendment would raise the U.S. contribution to the fight against global AIDS to \$4.8 billion in total for bilateral and multilateral programs combined.

This money is desperately needed.

This year we mark the 25 anniversary of the discovery of AIDS.

A generation has been born and come of age since then.

Twenty-five years ago, the Centers for Disease Control published what turned out to be one of the first descriptions of acquired immune deficiency syndrome in a short article in a weekly report. That article described five cases of pneumonia. It stated that these five cases "suggest the possibility of a cellular-immune dysfunction."

AIDS did not yet have a name, but it had an identity.

In the quarter century since those first cases were diagnosed, roughly 70 million people have been infected with HIV.

More than 22 million have died.

More than 12 million children in Africa alone have been orphaned.

Last year, 3 million people died, and 5 million people were newly infected.

Every 60 seconds, there are five more deaths from AIDS and nine more infections.

Over the next decade, an estimated 50 million more people will contract HIV.

Those numbers are devastating.

But the trajectory of destruction that AIDS has followed over the last quarter century can be changed. It is changing. In the last decade, new research and new international efforts have begun to alter that deadly equation.

Antiretrovirals mean that an HIV/AIDS diagnosis is no longer a death sentence, if one can get access to the drugs. Successful programs in Africa and elsewhere have convinced doubters that you can administer ARVs under extremely difficult circumstances. Effective prevention strategies in countries such as Uganda offer hope that the epidemic's relentless spread can be slowed.

But millions who are infected receive no treatment, and tens of millions more remain at risk.

The United States is a world leader in the battle against global AIDS. And the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria is one of the most effective and widest reaching weapons in our arsenal.

The amendment that Senator SANTORUM and I are offering today seeks to ensure that we maintain that leadership and maintain the extraordinary leveraging potential of our contribution.

For every dollar that the United States has provided to the Global Fund, the rest of the world has contributed two more.

The U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 linked U.S. contributions to the fund to those of other contributors.

We believe that the United States must live up to the commitment we have made to reach our one-third match. We also believe that it is very much in our interests to do so.

As Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has stated, "HIV/AIDS is not only a human tragedy of enormous magnitude; it is also a threat to the stability of entire countries and to entire regions of the world."

I strongly support fully funding the President's request for bilateral HIV/AIDS programs. These programs are vitally important.

The Global Fund is a complement to our other HIV/AIDS programs, not a competitor with them. The Global Fund offers unique leveraging opportunities. It also expands our reach, well beyond PEPFAR focus countries, thus giving our assistance breadth and

depth. The Global Fund reaches 130 countries around the world. It provides one-quarter of all donor HIV/AIDS spending, two-thirds of all donor TB spending, and half of all donor spending on malaria.

As of December 2005, the Global Fund was providing voluntary counseling and testing to 3.9 million people. The Global Fund is currently supporting community outreach efforts to 7 million people. It is providing antiretrovirals—ARVs—for 384,000 people.

The fund has also provided 7.7 million bed nets to prevent malaria and treated 1 million cases of TB through directly observed therapy. Malaria and TB kill 3 million people a year. There are proven, cost-effective solutions to prevent and treat these diseases, and the Global Fund helps provide them.

The President's request included \$300 million for the Global Fund. But this level of funding falls far short.

It falls short of our previous contributions, it falls short of our commitment, and it falls far short of the actual need.

First, \$300 million is less than what the United States has contributed to the Global Fund last year, and the year before that. Last year, the United States provided \$550 million. To cut that level almost in half would have a devastating effect.

As the AIDS crisis grows ever greater, our funding should be increasing, not decreasing.

Second, funding at that level will either fall well short of the one-to-two match from the international community or, even worse, will encourage other donors to lowball their own contributions.

Just as our generosity has been matched by the rest of the world, the reverse may also be true.

Third, the President's request falls far short of what is needed.

This year, the fund estimates that it will need \$1.6 billion just to renew current grants. That would require a \$533 million contribution from the United States. This figure is based on the assumption that about one in six grants will not be renewed, as part of the fund's screening mechanism. The programs that will be renewed are already on the ground, providing care and treatment. Three hundred million dollars will not come close to funding renewals of proven, lifesaving programs.

That is where we must begin, with \$533 million for renewals.

However, the need for expanded prevention, care, and treatment of these terrible diseases does not stay stable: it grows.

Our potential to help also increases, through proven interventions and demonstrated best practices and through the elimination of programs that do not meet standards of effectiveness or honesty.

The Global Fund must not remain static in the face of an expanding epidemic: it must grow to meet it.

Therefore, Senator SANTORUM and I believe that the United States must

also make a one third contribution to a new round of grants, at \$333 million.

That would mean a total contribution of \$866 million for the Global Fund from the United States.

On average, every \$100 million contribution to the Global Fund will generate the following results: The Fund can provide 630,000 bed nets to fight malaria; it can deliver 150,000 treatments for malaria; it can provide 80,000 highly-effective DOTS treatments for TB; it can supply 370,000 people with HIV tests; and it can provide 11,000 people with lifesaving AIDS treatment.

Lives hang in the balance. We must not shortchange this vital program, which dramatically extends the reach of U.S. foreign assistance.

Our amendment offsets the \$566 million increase in global AIDS funds with the 920 function, administrative allowances. This offset asks appropriators to find \$566 million in savings across all budget functions.

We do not believe that this money should come at the expense of other international humanitarian programs.

Out of a discretionary budget of \$873 billion, I don't think \$566 million is too much to ask in the global fight against these diseases.

Senator SANTORUM and I will be working together through the appropriations process to make sure we find these savings.

We believe it is important to set the U.S. mark now for the Global Fund at \$866 million.

This sends a clear signal to other donors that they need to step up their contributions to match this U.S. level.

I know there are many budgetary pressures, but this is literally a matter of life and death.

Twenty-five years ago, doctors first began to diagnose AIDS cases, but they could do almost nothing to save people. Then they began using AZT, which could slow the disease and, 10 years ago, ARVs, which could give people their lives back.

Sadly, for the first 10, even 20 years of this pandemic, the response of the international community to the tragedy unfolding before them was dreadfully slow.

Jan Eliasson, President of the U.N. General Assembly, has rightly declared that our slow response marks a scar "on the conscience of our generation."

Eliasson continues, "We cannot turn back the clock. We must ensure that, when historians look at the way the world responded to HIV and AIDS, they see that 2006 was the year when the international community finally stepped up to the mark the year when . . . the world began to 'keep the promise.'"

In 25 years we have made enormous strides, and yet the disease has moved faster.

I urge you to join me in supporting this amendment to ensure that the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria can both renew ongoing, proven programs and expand its lifesaving efforts.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, this amendment adds \$566 million for the Global AIDS Fund. This is a fund that historically the United States has participated at one-third funding level. It is an encouragement and incentive for the rest of the world to contribute to end the scourge of HIV/AIDS, particularly on the continent of Africa. To be able to meet that requirement for this funding year required an additional \$566 million above the President's request of \$300 million. That will fund 85 percent of the renewals that are coming due this year, in addition to round six of new funding for this initiative by the Global Fund.

This is a commitment that the United States has made. We have been a leader on this. We need to continue to lead in an area that does cry out for humanitarian support and compassion by the people of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time in opposition?

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

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

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 3052.

The amendment (No. 3052) was agreed to.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mrs. CLINTON. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3111, 3110, 3057, 3067, 3147, 3089,  
EN BLOC

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, we have a series of amendments we wish to agree to at this time. I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be considered and agreed to en bloc, and that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table: Dodd amendment No. 3111, Hutchison amendment No. 3110, Kohl amendment No. 3057, Feinstein amendment No. 3067, Clinton amendment No. 3147, Salazar amendment No. 3089.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CONRAD. No objection on this side.

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

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3111

(Purpose: To establish a reserve fund for the FIRE and SAFER programs)

At the end of title III, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ RESERVE FUND FOR THE FIRE AND SAFER PROGRAMS.**

If a bill or joint resolution is offered, or an amendment is offered thereto, or a conference report is submitted thereon, that provides firefighters and fire departments with critical resources under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters Grant, the Chairman of the Committee on Budget shall adjust the rev-

enue aggregates and other appropriate aggregates, levels, and limits in their resolution to reflect such legislation to the extent that such legislation would not increase the deficit for fiscal year 2007 and for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

AMENDMENT NO. 3110

(Purpose: To provide a reserve fund to ensure that physicians will receive an appropriate reimbursement rate under Medicare instead of a scheduled cut which would threaten the adequate provision of care for seniors and disabled citizens)

"SEC. . Reserve Fund for Physician Payment Increase under Medicare. If—

(1) the Committee on Finance Reports a bill, or if an amendment is offered thereto, or if a conference report is submitted thereon, that has the effect of increasing the reimbursement rate for physician services under Section 1848(d) of the Social Security Act; and

(2) that committee is within its allocation as provided under section 102(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may make the appropriate adjustments in allocations and aggregates to the extent that such legislation would not increase the deficit for fiscal year 2007 and for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

AMENDMENT NO. 3057

(Purpose: To restore \$380 million to juvenile justice programs funded by the Department of Justice, offset by a reduction to Function 920 (Allowances))

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$380,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by \$46,000,000.

On page 25, line 4, increase the amount by \$106,000,000.

On page 25, line 8, increase the amount by \$95,000,000.

On page 25, line 12, increase the amount by \$76,000,000.

On page 25, line 16, increase the amount by \$57,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$380,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$46,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$106,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$95,000,000.

On page 28, line 8, decrease the amount by \$76,000,000.

On page 28, line 11, decrease the amount by \$57,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3067

(Purpose: To provide \$390,000,000 in fiscal year 2007 for cancer funding in the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Health Resources and Services Administration paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$111,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$199,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$55,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$12,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$111,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$199,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$55,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$12,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$390,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$111,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$199,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$55,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$12,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 19, line 24, increase the amount by \$390,000,000.

On page 19, line 25, increase the amount by \$111,000,000.

On page 20, line 4, increase the amount by \$199,000,000.

On page 20, line 8, increase the amount by \$55,000,000.

On page 20, line 12, increase the amount by \$12,000,000.

On page 20, line 16, increase the amount by \$3,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by \$390,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$111,000,000.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3147

(Purpose: To restore funding for the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Contact Center (under Training, Research and Discretionary Programs), Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grants, Preventive Health Services, Home-Delivered Nutrition Services, Congregate Nutrition Services, the Nutrition Services Incentive Program, the National Family Caregiver Support Program, and the Long Term Care Ombudsmen Program in the Administration on Aging, fully offset through closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$26,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by 13,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$26,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$13,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$41,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$26,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$13,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 18, line 24, increase the amount by \$41,000,000.

On page 18, line 25, increase the amount by \$26,000,000.

On page 19, line 4, increase the amount by \$13,000,000.

On page 19, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by \$41,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$26,000,000.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3089

(Purpose: Restore \$100 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Stateside Grant Program. Paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 13, line 21, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 13, line 22, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 14, line 1, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 14, line 5, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 14, line 9, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 14, line 13, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3111

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to discuss S.A. 3111 to the fiscal year 2007 budget resolution which I sponsored with my colleague, Senator DEWINE. This amendment, which helps our Nation's firefighters perform their critical duties more safely, was adopted by unanimous consent. I thank the Chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator GREGG, and the committee's ranking member, Senator CONRAD, both for their work on the budget resolution and for their consideration of this important issue.

I would imagine that this amendment, which creates a special reserve fund to pay for the assistance to firefighters grants, is not the way that everyone would choose first to provide critical resources to the FIRE Act and SAFER Act grants. However, this amendment does demonstrate the commitment of the Senate to increase conditionally funding for our firefighters in a manner consistent with the need to be fiscally responsible.

Clearly, the need for these grants is irrefutable. Across our country, fire departments are in desperate need of obtaining updated equipment and more expensive firefighter training—two activities that are crucial to ensuring that firefighters can carry out their expanded responsibilities safely and effectively in this post-9/11 world.

In fiscal year 2002, there were over 19,000 FIRE grant applications seeking almost \$2 billion in support for eligible activities. In fiscal year 2005, there

were over 27,000 FIRE grant applications seeking over \$4 billion for such activities. The manmade and natural hazards that firefighters are expected to face today have strapped the ability of municipalities and States to provide for their needs. Therefore, it is imperative that the Federal Government expand its commitment to support our firefighters.

I think that very few people who are not firefighters stop and think about how much we ask of our firefighters in today's world. They still perform their traditional duties of extinguishing fires, delivering emergency medical services, and ensuring that fire codes are inspected. However, many firefighters have also taken on new homeland security responsibilities that include responding to and handling hazardous biological and radiological agents.

According to a national needs assessment study of the U.S. Fire Service published in December 2002, most fire departments lack the necessary resources and training to properly handle terrorist attacks and large-scale emergencies.

More specifically, the study found that, first, using local personnel, only 11 percent of fire departments can handle a rescue with emergency medical services at a structural collapse of a building with 50 occupants. Nearly half of all fire departments consider such an incident beyond their scope. Second, using local personnel, only 13 percent of fire departments say that they can handle a hazardous material incident involving chemical and/or biological agents with 10 injuries. Only 21 percent have a written agreement to direct the use of nonlocal resources to handle the situation. Third, an estimated 40 percent of fire department personnel involved in hazardous material response lack formal training in those duties. And finally, the study found an estimated 60 to 75 percent of fire departments do not have enough fire stations to achieve widely used response-time guidelines. Many fire departments are often stretched so thin that they cannot respond to fires with sufficient personnel to initiate an interior attack on a structural fire safely.

Moreover, the need for additional firefighters—both paid and volunteer—on our Nation's streets is great. According to National Fire Protection Association standards, a minimum of four firefighters is required to initiate an interior attack on a house fire. The study goes on to conclude that 73 percent of fire departments serving populations between 10,000 and 25,000 lack such personnel, 82 percent of departments serving populations between 25,000 and 50,000, 76 percent of departments serving populations between 50,000 and 100,000, 56 percent of departments serving populations between 100,000 and 250,000, 41 percent of departments serving populations between 250,000 and 500,000 people, 40 percent of departments serving populations between 500,000 and 1 million people, and

zero percent of departments serving populations at least 1 million people.

Over the past 5 years, FIRE and SAFER grants have been highly successful in enabling fire departments to acquire the resources they demand and hire the people they need. Over \$3 billion in assistance as been provided to well over 20,000 fire departments in all 50 States thus far. Yet the job of ensuring that all communities receive the assistance they need and deserve is far from done.

America's firefighters are always the first ones in and the last ones out. They risk their own lives to save the lives of others. They stare danger in the face every single day because they know they have a duty to fulfill. We must recognize their contribution to our domestic safety to see to it that they have the necessary equipment and personnel they demand in order to perform their critical duties safely.

I look forward to working with Senator DEWINE and my colleagues during the appropriations season to help ensure that the maximum amount of aid is delivered to all of our firefighters.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I have offered an amendment to the budget resolution with Senator BIDEN to significantly restore funding for juvenile justice programs. Our amendment will increase funding for these programs funded by the Department of Justice by adding \$380 million to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention—OJJDP—budget. The amendment accomplishes this by raising the functional total for the justice allocation by \$380 million offset in function 920—which gives the Appropriations Committee the flexibility to design the exact offsets.

Let me briefly illustrate why we must put money back into these programs. Following the administration's lead, the Senate Budget Committee allocated \$176 million to the OJJDP budget, which is about \$167 million less than what we appropriated last year and \$380 million less than the fiscal year 2002 appropriation. I am particularly disturbed that the Senate budget resolution assumes complete elimination of the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program—JABG—which received a little less than \$50 million last year. JABG provides funding for intervention programs that address the urgent needs of juveniles who have had run-ins with the law. Positive intervention and treatment at this early stage of delinquency can prevent further violent behavior and steer a young person in the right direction before it's too late.

That said, the Budget Committee seems to feel that the JABG program is ineffective. An example from my homestate of Wisconsin proves otherwise. Using Federal dollars from the JABG program, the Southern Oaks Girls School, a juvenile detention center outside of Racine, WI, built a new mental health wing to provide much-needed counseling services for the girl

inmates. The administrator of this school cites a 56-percent drop in violent behavior since the new mental services have been offered. This is just one example of JABG's many successes—a record that supports keeping JABG alive and well-funded.

The same is true of title V Local Delinquency Prevention Program, the only Federal program solely dedicated to juvenile crime prevention. Title V programs include preschool and parent training programs, youth mentoring, afterschool activities, tutoring, truancy reduction, substance abuse prevention and gang prevention outreach. Nonetheless, the Senate budget assumes a 50-percent cut to title—V penny pinching now that will cost us dearly in the future. According to many experts in the field, every dollar spent on prevention saves \$3 or \$4 in costs attributable to juvenile crime. And who can put a dollar value on the hundreds, even thousands of young lives turned from crime and into productive work and community life by the juvenile crime prevention programs supported by title V?

The downward spiral of juvenile justice funding is a disturbing budget trend with ugly real world implications. Juvenile crime is an ongoing challenge and it is not a problem that is going to solve itself. Boosting funding for successful juvenile justice programs is the first step in addressing this challenge. Just a few short years ago in fiscal year 2002, juvenile justice programs received \$556 million. Of that amount, more than \$94 million went to the title V program and nearly \$250 million was dedicated to JABG. We need to restore these initiatives to those robust levels and our amendment will do just that by adding \$380 million to the OJJDP budget for juvenile justice programs.

We have a choice in this Congress of where we want to invest our money. We can choose to address the roots of crime and invest in our children by preventing a life of criminal behavior. We can choose to intervene in a positive manner to work with those teens that have fallen through the cracks and have had a few scrapes with the law—we can turn many of those kids around. I urge my colleagues to make the right choice this year and support our amendment which will increase funding for juvenile justice programs. We can and must do better.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3167, 3168, AND 3169 EN BLOC

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments which have not been filed be considered en bloc, and that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table: Senator BROWNBACK on a commission on accountability and review of Federal agencies, Senator BAUCUS on high intensity drug trafficking, and Senator GRAHAM relative to the Port of Charleston.

Mr. CONRAD. No objection.

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

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3167

(Purpose: To establish a reserve fund for a Commission for Accountability and Review of Federal Agencies)

At the end of title III, insert the following:  
SEC. \_\_\_\_ RESERVE FUND A COMMISSION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND REVIEW OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.

If—

(1) the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Senate reports a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment is offered thereto or a conferece report is submitted thereon, that creates a Commission for the review of the performances of Federal agencies, with the purpose of recommending legislation to realign or eliminate programs or agencies that are wasteful, duplicative, inefficient, outdated, irrelevant, or failed; and

(2) the committee is within its allocation as provided under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

the chairman of the Committee on Budget may make the appropriate adjustments in allocations and aggregates to the extent that such legislation would not increase the deficit for fiscal year 2007 and for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

AMENDMENT NO. 3168

(Purpose: To expand funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program, offset through reductions in Function 920. To ensure that HIDTA funding remains in ONDCP)

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$19,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 25, line 4, increase the amount by \$11,000,000.

On page 25, line 8, increase the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 25, line 12, increase the amount by \$1,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$19,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$11,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000.

On page 28, line 8, decrease the amount by \$1,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3169

(Purpose: To restore funding for a pilot project in the Port of Charleston that coordinates over 50 State and local law enforcement agencies to prevent and detect acts of terrorism and criminal activity)

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$27,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by \$21,600,000.

On page 25, line 4, increase the amount by \$2,700,000.

On page 25, line 8, increase the amount by \$2,700,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$27,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$21,600,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by \$2,700,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$2,700,000.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, at this point we are ready to go to the Vitter amendment. Is the Senator from North Dakota ready?

Mr. CONRAD. No, we are not. We have people looking at that amendment. Could we go to Senator DOMENICI's amendment?

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant Journal clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GREGG. 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. GREGG. Mr. President, I know Senator VITTER wants to be heard on his amendment and Senator DOMENICI wants to be heard on his amendment. There was a prior order that said Senator DOMENICI would occur after Senator SANTORUM—not an order but sort of a collegial understanding—so we will go to Senator DOMENICI, then Senator VITTER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

AMENDMENT NO. 3128

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, last year the Senate by an overwhelming majority—74 Senators voted to support the Energy Policy Act. A number of programs, projects, and activities within that act were not contained in the President's budget.

What this does, it supports an energy reserve fund paid for by ANWR receipts. In other words, ANWR is in the bill, and we allocate part of the receipts in a reserve fund to the Secretary of Energy to pay for various projects that were already voted on by the Congress that we thought were good projects. Therefore, this would fund \$150 million a year for 5 years from the ANWR receipts.

I think we should do it. I urge the Senate to adopt this. It is a good way to use the funds, an appropriate way, and I believe it would add to the validity of our Energy Policy Act and make those things happen more quickly.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the amendment by the Senator from New Mexico. This is a debate we have been through over and over again. There are some who believe that drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is the answer to America's energy challenge. This amendment says the proceeds from that drilling will fund all the other energy policies in our Nation.

This makes no sense whatsoever. There is no possible way that in the next fiscal year, even if we approved the drilling in ANWR, there will be proceeds that can be contributed to the Energy Policy Act funding.

Yesterday, this body had a chance to vote for real money to fund the Energy Policy Act when Senator BINGAMAN offered the amendment, and it was defeated by opposition from the other side of the aisle.

I rise in opposition to this amendment. This is no way to fund energy policy, and ANWR is not the answer to our energy prayers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant journal clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI] proposes an amendment numbered 3128.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide funding for implementing the Energy Policy Act of 2005 from ANWR)

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$151,593,000.

On page 4, line 19, increase the amount by \$156,269,000.

On page 4, line 21, increase the amount by \$162,937,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$69,093,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$133,769,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$155,437,000.

On page 5, line 23, decrease the amount by \$69,093,000.

On page 5, line 25, decrease the amount by \$133,769,000.

On page 6, line 2, decrease the amount by \$155,437,000.

On page 6, line 12, increase the amount by \$69,093,000.

On page 6, line 14, increase the amount by \$202,862,000.

On page 6, line 16, increase the amount by \$358,299,000.

On page 7, line 2, increase the amount by \$69,093,000.

On page 7, line 4, increase the amount by \$202,862,000.

On page 7, line 6, increase the amount by \$358,299,000.

On page 13, line 4, increase the amount by \$150,000,000.

On page 13, line 5, increase the amount by \$67,500,000.

On page 13, line 8, increase the amount by \$150,000,000.

On page 13, line 9, increase the amount by \$127,500,000.

On page 13, line 12, increase the amount by \$150,000,000.

On page 13, line 13, increase the amount by \$142,500,000.

On page 41, strike lines 8 through 11 and insert the following:

“ate may make the adjustments described in subsections (b) and (c).

(b) ADJUSTMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005.—If the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate reports a bill or joint resolution, or if an amendment is offered thereto or a conference report is submitted thereon that makes available a portion of the receipts resulting from enactment of the legislation described in subsection (a) for programs to implement the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58), the chairman of the Committee on the Budget may revise committee allocations for that committee and other appropriate budgetary aggregates and allocations of new budget authority and outlays by the amount provided by that measure for that purpose, but the adjustment may not exceed \$150,000,000 in new budget authority in each of fiscal years 2009 through 2011.

(c) ADJUSTMENT FOR THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAMS AND ADDITIONAL LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS.—If the Committee on Appro- \* \* \*

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 72 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Akaka	Dole	Martinez
Alexander	Domenici	McCain
Allard	Enzi	McConnell
Allen	Frist	Murkowski
Bennett	Graham	Roberts
Bond	Grassley	Santorum
Brownback	Gregg	Sessions
Bunning	Hagel	Shelby
Burns	Hatch	Specter
Burr	Hutchison	Stevens
Chambliss	Inhofe	Sununu
Coburn	Inouye	Talent
Cochran	Isakson	Thomas
Cornyn	Kyl	Thune
Craig	Landrieu	Vitter
Crapo	Lott	Voivovich
DeMint	Lugar	Warner

NAYS—49

Baucus	Durbin	Murray
Bayh	Ensign	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Feinstein	Obama
Boxer	Harkin	Pryor
Byrd	Jeffords	Reed
Cantwell	Johnson	Reid
Carper	Kennedy	Rockefeller
Chafee	Kerry	Salazar
Clinton	Kohl	Sarbanes
Coleman	Lautenberg	Schumer
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Conrad	Levin	Snowe
Dayton	Lieberman	Stabenow
DeWine	Lincoln	Wyden
Dodd	Menendez	
Dorgan	Mikulski	

The amendment (No. 3128) was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from Louisiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 3165

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant journal clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. VITTER] proposes an amendment numbered 3165.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: to create a Reserve Fund for Gulf Coast, Protection, Reconstruction and Recovery Fund)

On page 43, after line 22, add the following:  
If—

(1) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate or the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, or both Committees, reports a bill or joint resolution, or if an amendment is offered thereto, or if a conference report is submitted thereon, that creates a Gulf Coast

Protection, Reconstruction and Recovery Fund to provide assistance to coastal states for coastal conservation, mitigation and resource protection activities, or other purposes, based on the allocation formula provided in Section 31 of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act that is funded \$10 billion from the following sources or any combination of funds thereof—

(A) Receipts deposited into the Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Fund that exceed estimates of the Congressional Budget Office for the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 at the time of enactment;

(B) Receipts (including bonus bids, rents, royalties, and payments associated with royalties in kind) from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, if the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate reports a bill, and such measure is enacted, to establish oil exploration and production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge;

(C) Receipts equal to the amount of receipts received by the United States government attributable to offshore energy production (including bonus bids, rents, royalties, and payments associated with royalties in kind) for each year that exceed estimates of the Congressional Budget Office as of March 16, 2006; and

(2) that committee is within its allocation as provided under section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974;

the chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may make the appropriate adjustments in allocations and aggregates to the extent that such legislation would not increase the deficit for fiscal year 2007 and for the period of fiscal years 2007 through 2011.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant journal clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 3165) was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. CONRAD. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that after the passage of the budget—I like that—the Senate proceed to executive session and proceed to two consecutive votes on the confirmation of the following judicial nominations on the Executive Calendar: Calendar No. 547, Jack Zouhary to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio; and Calendar No. 548, Stephen G. Larson to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Cali-

fornia; further, that prior to the first vote the two Senators from Ohio be given 1 minute each, and prior to the second vote the Senators from California be given 1 minute each; that following these votes the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, is time also reserved before each vote for the chairman of the Judiciary Committee and ranking member?

Mr. GREGG. There was not. But I will be happy to ask for that.

Mr. LEAHY. One minute each prior; and I wonder if the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire would be willing to amend his unanimous consent to make it in order to ask for the yeas and nays at this point on both votes.

Mr. GREGG. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered en bloc.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3031, 3089, 3170, AND 3171, EN BLOC

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following amendments be considered en bloc and that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table: A Levin amendment relative to ATP; a Salazar amendment relative to the LWCF. I further ask unanimous consent that the following amendments which have not been filed be considered and agreed to en bloc, and the motions to reconsider be laid on the table: A Conrad-Gregg amendment on tax cap; and a Gregg-Conrad amendment for Senator BYRD on mine safety.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3031

(Purpose: Provide funding for the Advanced Technology Program to help ensure America's competitive advantage and fully offset with reductions in function 920)

On page 15, line 21, increase the amount by \$140,000,000.

On page 15, line 22, increase the amount by \$21,000,000.

On page 16, line 1, increase the amount by \$98,000,000.

On page 16, line 5, increase the amount by \$21,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$140,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$21,000,000.

On page 28, line 2, decrease the amount by 98,000,000.

On page 28, line 5, decrease the amount by \$21,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3089

(Purpose: Restore \$100 million to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Stateside Grant Program. Paid for by closing corporate tax loopholes)

On page 3, line 13, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 3, line 15, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 3, line 17, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 3, line 19, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 3, line 21, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 4, line 1, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 4, line 2, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 4, line 3, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 5, line 12, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 13, line 21, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 13, line 22, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

On page 14, line 1, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 14, line 5, increase the amount by \$30,000,000.

On page 14, line 9, increase the amount by \$10,000,000.

On page 14, line 13, increase the amount by \$5,000,000.

On page 53, line 1, increase the amount by \$100,000,000.

On page 53, line 2, increase the amount by \$25,000,000.

AMENDMENT NO. 3170

(Purpose: To provide an additional \$500 million to enhance the ability of the Internal Revenue Service to collect taxes owed but not paid voluntarily)

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$363,000,000.

On page 5, line 4, increase the amount by \$340,000,000.

On page 5, line 6, increase the amount by \$14,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$9,000,000.

On page 5, line 19, decrease the amount by \$340,000,000.

On page 5, line 21, decrease the amount by \$14,000,000.

On page 5, line 23, decrease the amount by \$9,000,000.

On page 6, line 8, increase the amount by \$340,000,000.

On page 6, line 10, increase the amount by \$354,000,000.

On page 6, line 12, increase the amount by \$363,000,000.

On page 6, line 14, increase the amount by \$363,000,000.

On page 6, line 16, increase the amount by \$363,000,000.

On page 6, line 22, increase the amount by \$340,000,000.

On page 6, line 24, increase the amount by \$354,000,000.