

all postcloture time be yielded back and the motion to proceed be agreed to; that after the bill is reported, it then be read a third time, and the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill, without further intervening action or debate; that if cloture is not invoked on the motion to proceed, then a motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote be considered as entered, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. If the Chair will withhold, I appreciate very much all Senators' thoughtful consideration of what we are trying to accomplish. I especially extend my appreciation to the Republican leader for his stepping out of important meetings to take calls from me and being available to help us work our way through these difficult times.

We are all trying to accomplish the same thing. We have an economy that is in peril, and we want to make sure we do everything we can within reason and keeping with our responsibilities to succeed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. ALEXANDER. No objection.

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

Mr. REID. This will be the last vote this week.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 3 p.m. having arrived, morning business is now closed.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6867, which the clerk will now report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 1123, H.R. 6867, an act to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1123, H.R. 6867, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008.

Harry Reid, Max Baucus, Patrick J. Leahy, Bernard Sanders, Kent Conrad,

E. Benjamin Nelson, John D. Rockefeller, IV, Dianne Feinstein, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Patty Murray, Richard Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara A. Mikulski, Barbara Boxer, Carl Levin, Daniel K. Akaka, Mark L. Pryor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6867, an act to provide for additional emergency unemployment compensation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 214 Leg.]

YEAS—89

Akaka	Dorgan	Mikulski
Alexander	Durbin	Murkowski
Allard	Ensign	Murray
Baucus	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Bayh	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Bennett	Graham	Pryor
Bingaman	Grassley	Reed
Bond	Gregg	Reid
Boxer	Hagel	Roberts
Brown	Harkin	Rockefeller
Brownback	Hutchison	Salazar
Bunning	Inouye	Sanders
Burr	Isakson	Schumer
Byrd	Johnson	Sessions
Cantwell	Kennedy	Shelby
Cardin	Kerry	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Snowe
Casey	Kohl	Specter
Clinton	Kyl	Stabenow
Cochran	Landrieu	Stevens
Coleman	Lautenberg	Tester
Collins	Leahy	Thune
Conrad	Levin	Vitter
Corker	Lieberman	Voinovich
Cornyn	Lugar	Warner
Craig	Martinez	Webb
Crapo	McCain	Whitehouse
Dodd	McCaskill	Wicker
Dole	McConnell	Wyden
Domenici	Menendez	

NAYS—6

Barrasso	DeMint	Hatch
Coburn	Enzi	Inhofe

NOT VOTING—4

Biden	Lincoln
Chambliss	Sununu

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 89, the nays are 6. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

Under the previous order, all postcloture time is yielded back and the motion to proceed is agreed to.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, next week we will celebrate Thanksgiving—a holiday to be with family and to give thanks for the many blessings

we enjoy. But this year, American families gathering around the Thanksgiving table are burdened with serious worries: Are we going to lose our home? Can we afford to retire when our savings have been wiped out? Will we have to choose between sending our children to college and paying our medical bills?

One of the greatest hardships millions of Americans are facing is the loss of their jobs. The current job market is the worst in the past quarter century. Over 1 million people have lost their jobs this year—half a million in September and October alone. Last week, more workers filed for unemployment benefits than at any time since the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Economists predict the unemployment rate will continue to climb from its current 14-year high of 6.5 percent to well over 8 percent in the coming year.

Earlier this year, Congress approved additional unemployment benefits for workers. That was an important step, but families need additional support. Unemployment benefits have expired for many workers, and finding a new job is far more difficult as the recession deepens. More than 2 million Americans have been unable to find work for more than 6 months. If Congress fails to extend benefits again this year, nearly 1.2 million Americans will have exhausted their benefits by the end of the year.

That's why this legislation is so essential. It provides 7 additional weeks of unemployment assistance to workers whose benefits have expired, and an additional 13 weeks for jobless workers in high-unemployment states. This bill has already passed the House overwhelmingly, with strong bipartisan support. By acting today, we will deliver immediate aid to many of the neediest Americans who are unable to find work.

Not only does the extension of unemployment benefits provide a lifeline for struggling families, it also serves as a needed and immediate stimulus for the economy—each dollar of unemployment benefits generates \$1.64 in economic growth. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical extension of unemployment assistance.

Providing these additional unemployment benefits, however, is not the only step we must take to help working families meet the tough challenges that lie ahead. Jumpstarting our economy and restoring American prosperity will take bolder vision and more decisive action. We need to create good jobs for the millions of Americans who want to work. That means investing in our workers, investing in our infrastructure, and investing in technology for the future. It also means repairing the broken safety nets, so that more families who are being hurt by this downturn can get back on their feet.

I wish we could have done more in this lame-duck, but at least we are taking an important step. I look forward to working with our new President and the new Congress in January