

before we leave on February 14. It is a target date which all of us understand is very serious because we are facing economic circumstances we have not seen in this country in over 75 years. I want to make sure we do this and do it quickly; that we act boldly and swiftly, and at the end of the day we create the jobs that are needed in this country, we cut taxes for working families so they will have more resources to cope with the expenses they face, and we invest in long-term investments that pay off and stabilize our economy. We are talking about roads and bridges and airports and schools, and we need transparency and accountability when it comes to this recovery program.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

Madam 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. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second? There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Timothy F. Geithner, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury?

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND).

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

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 15 Ex.]

YEAS—60

Akaka	Feinstein	Mikulski
Baucus	Graham	Murray
Bayh	Gregg	Nelson (FL)
Begich	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Bennet	Hatch	Pryor
Bingaman	Inouye	Reed
Boxer	Johnson	Reid
Burr	Kaufman	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Kerry	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Kohl	Shelby
Casey	Landrieu	Snowe
Conrad	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Corker	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Levin	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Lieberman	Udall (NM)
Dodd	Lincoln	Voivovich
Dorgan	McCaskill	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Webb
Ensign	Merkley	Whitehouse

NAYS—34

Alexander	Bennett	Bunning
Barrasso	Brownback	Burr

Byrd	Hutchison	Risch
Chambliss	Inhofe	Roberts
Coburn	Isakson	Sanders
Cochran	Johanns	Sessions
Collins	Kyl	Specter
DeMint	Lugar	Thune
Enzi	Martinez	Vitter
Feingold	McCain	Wicker
Grassley	McConnell	
Harkin	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—4

Bond	Kennedy
Brown	Wyden

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid on the table.

The President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

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

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the consideration of H.R. 2 be for debate only during today's session. There will be no amendments in order tonight.

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

Mr. BAUCUS. The author Lois McMaster Bujold wrote:

Children might or might not be a blessing, but to create them and then fail them was surely damnation.

Before 1997, we largely failed the children of the working poor. The Children's Health Insurance Program changed that. For millions of working families, the Children's Health Insurance Program has truly been a blessing.

Before 1997, kids of the working poor had nowhere to go to get health insurance—nowhere. Their parents' employers did not offer health insurance benefits, and the individual market offered only low-quality insurance options at unaffordable prices. Without health insurance, kids could not see the doctor for a checkup, they could not get a prescription for an earache, and they

could not get treatment for common chronic conditions such as asthma. Unhealthy kids cannot run and play, they cannot do well in school, and they cannot grow into healthy and productive adults.

In 1997, Congress took action to address this problem. We established the Children's Health Insurance Program. Today, we finally move forward to keep the program going. The Children's Health Insurance Program has bipartisan roots, and it has achieved what we created it to do; namely, it covers low-income, uninsured kids.

Congress enacted the Children's Health Insurance Program as a bipartisan compromise. Members of Congress wanted to address the rising number of children without health insurance, and Senator ROCKEFELLER, Senator HATCH, Senator KENNEDY, and the late Senator John Chafee led the way. I am proud to have helped write and pass the Children's Health Insurance Program 12 years ago. It has been a tremendous success.

The Finance Committee reached a compromise that allowed States to set up children's health insurance programs that would meet their unique needs. States can choose whether they want to participate in the program. Within 2 years of CHIP's creation, every State decided to participate. It was a no-brainer. Every State wanted to address the health care needs of our most vulnerable children.

In its first decade, CHIP cut the number of uninsured children by more than one-third. Today, because of CHIP, nearly 7 million children get the doctors visits and medicines they need. Those healthier childhoods will enable those 7 million kids to become healthy, productive adults.

Health insurance is important. It is more than important; it is critical. Children with health coverage are more likely to get the health care they need, when they need it. Because of CHIP, 7 million kids have regular checkups, see doctors when they get sick, and get the prescription medications they need.

The task before us is to reauthorize this important program. Many will recall that we started this process back in the year 2007.

Congress worked hard, very hard to pass a bipartisan reauthorization package. I can tell my colleagues, Senators HATCH, ROCKEFELLER and myself and Senator GRASSLEY worked hours on end. I cannot tell you the number of hours we met and how hard it was, but we worked together and got that compromise. We got it passed on the floor, passed the House. But President Bush vetoed it twice. Times have changed. President Obama is looking forward to signing the Children's Health Insurance Program bill, and Congress is prepared to act.

Americans overwhelmingly support covering kids. The bill before us today will keep coverage for all children currently in the program, and we will start to reach more than 4 million additional uninsured, low-income kids. In