

The Summer of Service bill would reach the youngest Americans interested in giving back to their communities, fostering a commitment to service that will last a lifetime. The Summer of Service Act would create a competitive grant program that would enable states and localities to offer middle school students an opportunity to participate in a structured community service program over the summer months. It would employ service-learning to teach civic participation skills, help young people see themselves as resources to their communities, expand educational opportunities and discourage “summer academic slide.” Providing tangible benefits to their communities, Summer of Service projects would direct grantees to work on unmet human, educational, environmental and public safety needs and encourage all youth, regardless of age, income, or disability, to engage in community service. The program would also grant participants with an educational award of up to \$500 which can later be used to pay for college.

The Semester of Service Act also engages students in service-learning at the high school level. We talk so much about ways to improve academic performance in our schools. Well, when service is integrated into our students’ curricula at school, young people make gains on achievement tests. Service-learning results in grade point averages going up, and feelings about high school are that more positive.

And the benefits of service-learning go well beyond the classroom. When young people participate in service activities they feel better able to control their own lives in a positive way. They are less prone to engage in risky behavior, more likely to engage in their own education, and far more aware of the career opportunities before them.

Indeed, research shows that for every dollar we spend on a service-learning project, \$4 worth of service is provided to the community involved. That means by authorizing \$200 million for fiscal year 2009, as the Semester of Service Act does, our country will save more than half a billion dollars in service performed.

This legislation works by creating a competitive grant program that gives school districts, or nonprofits working in partnership with local school districts, the opportunity to have students participate in a semester of service in their junior or senior year for academic credit. These students are required to perform a minimum of 70 hours of service learning activities over 12 weeks, with at least 24 of those hours spent participating in field-based activities—outside of the classroom.

By engaging both the public and private sector, Semester of Service teaches civic participation skills and helps young people see themselves not merely as residents in their communities—but resources to them.

Perhaps, the greatest untapped resource in our communities are older Americans. No one is more ready or more poised to make a difference—in

our communities and throughout our country—than the gaining Baby Boomer generation.

In the next decade alone, the number of Americans 55 years and older is expected to grow another 22 percent. But for all the well-publicized challenges that growth presents, it is time we also recognize something else:

The opportunities it offers—if we seize them.

More than half of those considered a part of the Baby Boomer generation are interested in providing meaningful service to their communities. Countless older men and women who have given so much to their country throughout their lives want to serve as they enter their later years.

They are living longer, healthier lives than any generation in history. And they recognize something elemental:

Life doesn’t end at retirement. For many, it is only beginning—leading perhaps to a second career in the public or nonprofit sector.

We have so much to learn. Indeed, there can be no greater gift passed on to future generations than the lessons of the past. But the truth is, we too often fail to draw upon the experience, knowledge and ideas of previous generations.

What is missing is the opportunity.

Giving older Americans those opportunities is what the Encore Service Act is all about. It creates an Encore Service Program that provides Americans 55 years and older with opportunities to serve communities with the greatest need—to volunteer in our nation’s schools, to help keep our neighborhoods clean, safe and vibrant, and so much more. In return for their service, which may include extensive training and a significant commitment of time, they can receive a stipend and education award, much like AmeriCorps does for younger generations.

Best of all, that stipend can be transferred to children or grandchildren. Imagine what that means for a grandmother or a grandfather who could literally put thousands of dollars into their newborn grandchild’s college savings fund as a result of this program—funds that can only be used after the child turns 18 and can be kept for up to 20 years. Of all the new ideas in this legislation, perhaps this one is the most exciting.

This legislation also creates an Encore Fellows program that places older Americans in one-year management or leadership positions in public or private not-for-profits. These year-long fellowships not only increase the capacity of public service organizations already doing tremendous work in our communities, they also promote those who have already had full, successful careers, perhaps in the private sector, to lend their expertise and experience to the cause of community or public service.

The Encore Service Act also creates a Silver Scholars program that awards older Americans with an education scholarship of up to \$1,000 in exchange for volunteering with public agencies

or private nonprofits between 250 and 500 hours a year. As with the Encore Service Program, they can use these awards for themselves or transfer them to children, grandchildren or other qualified designees.

Lastly, this legislation expands the capacity and builds on the success of current Senior Programs by raising the authorization funding levels for the Foster Grandparent, Senior Corps and RSVP programs. We all know that seniors and these programs have already made a remarkable difference in our communities. That is why our legislation raises program eligibility levels from 125 to 200 percent above poverty and ensures that all programs will be open to any individual 55 years and older.

Contrary to what some suggest, I believe the American people are starved for opportunities to serve—and stand at the ready not just in times of crisis, but every day.

Americans are simply waiting to be asked to serve something greater than themselves, as they originally were by President John F. Kennedy. In introducing this legislation today, we once again remind all Americans of that call to serve.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 53—AUTHORIZING A PLAQUE COMMEMORATING THE ROLE OF ENSLAVED AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CAPITOL

Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. BENNETT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 53

Whereas enslaved African Americans provided labor essential to the construction of the Capitol;

Whereas enslaved African Americans performed the backbreaking work of quarrying the stone which comprised many of the floors, walls, and columns of the Capitol;

Whereas enslaved African Americans toiled in the Aquia Creek sandstone quarry in Stafford County, Virginia and in a marble quarry in Montgomery County, Maryland to produce the stone that would be used in the Capitol;

Whereas the marble columns in the Old Senate Chamber and the sandstone walls of the East Front corridor remain as the lasting legacies of the enslaved African Americans who worked the quarries;

Whereas enslaved African Americans also participated in other facets of construction of the Capitol, including carpentry, masonry, carting, rafting, roofing, plastering, glazing, painting, and sawing;

Whereas enslaved African Americans labored on the Nation’s Capitol while they, themselves, were not free;

Whereas the contributions of enslaved African Americans in the construction of the Capitol have not been acknowledged nor adequately represented in the Capitol;

Whereas no narrative on the construction of the Capitol that does not include the contributions of enslaved African Americans can fully and accurately reflect the history of the Capitol; and

Whereas recognition of the contributions of enslaved African Americans brings to all people of the United States an understanding of the continuing evolution of democracy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate authorizes and directs—

(1) the Senate Commission on Art to procure an appropriate plaque acknowledging the role of enslaved African Americans in the construction of the Capitol; and

(2) that, under the direction of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the plaque shall be placed near the original exterior wall that was constructed between 1793 and 1800 in the East Front corridor on the third floor of the Senate wing of the Capitol.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate, that the hearing scheduled before Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, for Thursday, February 26, 2009, will begin at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to provide recommendations for reducing energy consumption in buildings through improved implementation of authorized DOE programs and through other innovative federal energy efficiency policies and programs.

For further information, please contact Deborah Estes at (202) 224-5360 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 10 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to examine the progress on smart grid initiatives authorized in the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and funded in the stimulus bill, and to learn of opportunities and impediments to timely installation of smart grid technologies.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Gina.Weinstock@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Leon Lowery at (202) 224-2209 or Gina Weinstock at (202) 224-5684.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the infor-

mation of the Senate and the public that an oversight hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 5, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this oversight hearing is to review future directions of energy research and development and to identify key scientific and technological hurdles that must be overcome in order to pursue these new directions.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record may do so by sending it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Rosemarie_Calabro@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Epstein at (202) 224-4971 or Rosemarie Calabro at (202) 224-5039.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has rescheduled its February 24th hearing, "Tax Haven Banks and U.S. Tax Compliance—Obtaining the Names of U.S. Clients with Swiss Accounts," to Wednesday, March 4th. This hearing will continue the Subcommittee's examination of financial institutions which are located in offshore tax havens and which use practices that facilitate tax evasion and other misconduct by U.S. clients. One of the banks featured in a July 2008 hearing on this topic is UBS, a major financial institution headquartered in Switzerland. The hearing will examine issues related to a John Doe summons served by the IRS on UBS seeking the names of U.S. clients with UBS Swiss accounts that have not been disclosed to the IRS. In July, UBS representatives estimated that about 19,000 U.S. clients had about \$18 billion in assets in such Swiss accounts. The hearing will examine a recent deferred prosecution agreement involving UBS, the status of the John Doe summons, the role of U.S.-Swiss tax and legal assistance treaties, and the effect of Swiss secrecy laws on U.S. information requests. A witness list will be available Friday, February 27, 2009.

The Subcommittee hearing has been rescheduled for March 4, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in Room 342 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Bob Roach of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at 202-224-9505.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2009, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to meet, during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "Addressing Underinsurance in National Health Reform" on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. The hearing will commence at 10 a.m. in room 430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 2 p.m., in a Joint Hearing with the House Veterans' Affairs Committee to receive testimony from the Disabled American Veterans. The Committee will meet in room 345 of the Cannon Building beginning at 2 p.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on February 24, 2009 at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, to conduct a hearing entitled "The Ticketmaster/Live Nation Merger: What Does it Mean for Consumers and the Future of the Concert Business?" on Tuesday, February 24, 2009, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD-226 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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