

market. That is why it is time to draw a line in the sand. It is time to reject these distractions and stand on the side of the American people.

That is what this debate is about. It is about individuals who send us to Washington to fight for their rights and defend their interests. It is about families who sit around the kitchen table in Illinois and across America. They open their pocketbooks and write larger and larger checks every month. They are wondering when we will have the courage to act on our convictions.

We must not delay another moment. If we fail to act, health care coverage will continue to increase in price and decline in quality. Let us rise to the challenge. Let us seize this moment. There is no doubt the Senate is the greatest deliberative body on the face of the planet. Throughout our history, contentious arguments such as this one have played out on the floor of this Chamber and the old Senate Chamber down the hall. The world knows this Senate can debate. But let it now show them we can also act. Let it show them we can take action.

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 I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FAIRNESS ACT OF 2009—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 178, S. 1776 and, in the process, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The 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. 178, S. 1776, the Medicare Physician Fairness Act of 2009.

Harry Reid, Debbie Stabenow, Roland W. Burris, Patty Murray, Mark Udall, Mark Begich, Frank R. Lautenberg, Amy Klobuchar, Jack Reed, Carl Levin, Jeff Bingaman, Sherrod Brown, Sheldon Whitehouse, Barbara Boxer, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Charles E. Schumer, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote occur at 5:30 p.m., Monday, October 19, and that the mandatory quorum be waived; further that at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, there be 60 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees prior to the 5:30 p.m. vote.

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

Mr. REID. I now withdraw the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is withdrawn.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

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

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I join in support of the Vitter amendment, which would preclude any funding in the CJS appropriations bill being used for the 2010 census, if the census does not include a citizenship question. Under current law, the census does not even ask the question about whether individuals in the United States are citizens or not. They ask people how many bathrooms and children they have, all kinds of things, but they don't ask a citizenship question. Congressional apportionment in the U.S. House of Representatives is based on that total population count, including people illegally in this country. I think representation in Congress should be based on the number of legal residents, and it should not be increased because persons here illegally, not eligible to vote, happen to be in that State. That is a matter I hear a lot about from my constituents. They ask how this is possible. They are shocked that is what might be happening. The truth is, it does happen.

So I think Senator VITTER is raising a good question, and I believe his amendment is valid. Our next census will determine the reapportionment of the House of Representatives and Electoral College votes each State has.

The 2010 census form lacks the simple question: Are you a citizen of the United States of America? How accurate can we in Congress expect to be about the composition of our population if we do not ask that question, especially when some estimate there may be as many as 12 million people illegally in the country? Indeed, I think that probably is an accurate figure, so it has an impact. Calculations using some of the interim census data estimates are pretty dramatic and point out the real impacts of this policy.

Using the American Community Survey of the Census Bureau, their estimates for State population, including noncitizen and citizen populations, is instructive. The discrepancy in numbers for reapportionment using those different figures is significant. For example, States that might otherwise expect to gain or expect not to lose population, lose congressional seats, would do so if these numbers are counted. For example, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Louisiana—all of

those would be expected to stay the same or gain. And if illegals are counted, they will either not gain or lose seats.

So I think that is a pretty important issue. It is not something with which my State is directly involved. But having dealt with the immigration issue over some period of time, and trying to be informed about it, I hear a lot of people raising this fundamental question. I think it would be simple to fix constitutionally. We would simply say: Ask how many people are here legally and use that to be the basis of the apportionment of congressional seats, and not using people who are not here legally. It does not threaten people. It does not mean they will be arrested or anything like that or to be subject to deportation. It simply means when the numbers are all in, we will know how many U.S. residents exist in the various States, and from that number we will be able to apportion our House of Representatives and the Electoral College for the next Presidential election.

I think that is the right thing to do. We need to get away from this other process and urge the support of the Vitter amendment.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to make some comments about the health care bill we are all anxious to see and discuss.

Everyone knows a principal focus of our attention now in the Senate is on the health care reform bill, and we expect a major debate on the precise structure of that bill over the next few weeks. But I want to, in that connection, start my remarks with a quotation from a statement given by the Senator from South Carolina. He said, on June 17, 2009:

If we're able to stop Obama on this, it will be his Waterloo. It will break him.

That is the Republican dominant view on health care reform. The mission is not to do better for the American people but, rather, to destroy the Presidency of Barack Obama. It is an unpleasant scene to witness.

Almost all Americans want to see us fix our health care system. I say "almost" because there is a group of people here who love the status quo: health insurance companies and their lobbyists and CEOs.

Everyone knows health care costs have skyrocketed, and that means everybody pays more. But when working people are under assault to pay more, it could cause a catastrophic confrontation with funds, with money for food and education and other ordinary but essential expenses for living.

America's small businesses are struggling to provide health care for their employees, and more people are less able to afford health care coverage. And while enormous pressure is placed on middle-income families, the largest health insurers are seeing massive profit growth.