

Klobuchar	Merkley	Snowe
Kohl	Mikulski	Specter
Landrieu	Murray	Stabenow
Lautenberg	Nelson (NE)	Tester
Leahy	Nelson (FL)	Udall (CO)
Levin	Pryor	Udall (NM)
Lieberman	Reed	Voinovich
Lincoln	Reid	Warner
Lugar	Rockefeller	Webb
McCain	Sanders	Whitehouse
McCaskill	Schumer	Wyden
Menendez	Shaheen	

NAYS—29

Alexander	Crapo	LeMieux
Barrasso	DeMint	McConnell
Bennett	Enzi	Risch
Brownback	Feingold	Roberts
Bunning	Graham	Sessions
Burr	Grassley	Shelby
Chambliss	Inhofe	Thune
Coburn	Isakson	Witter
Cochran	Johanns	Vitter
Corker	Kyl	Wicker

NOT VOTING—3

Byrd	Hatch	Murkowski
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The conference report was agreed to. Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we have just adopted a landmark Defense authorization bill. We are sending to the President the 48th consecutive Defense authorization bill—I move to reconsider the vote on that bill and lay that motion upon the table.

The motion to lay upon the table was agreed to.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, we have an unbroken tradition on our committee, 48 consecutive national Defense authorization bills. It is never easy to get this bill through the legislative process. But with perseverance, a lot of good-faith work has never let us down.

We maintain our focus because we are acting on behalf of our true heroes, the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families. The enactment of this conference report is going to provide the men and women of our Armed Forces, both Active and Reserve, and their families with the pay and benefits they deserve, the equipment and training they need.

The conference report includes \$164 billion for military personnel, including costs of pay, allowances, bonuses, survivor benefits, and military health care. It would authorize a 3.4 percent across-the-board pay raise for our troops, a half a percent above the budget request and the annual increase in the employment cost Index.

The conference report would authorize \$130 billion in funding for our ongoing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would provide more than \$2.0 billion for the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Fund, to help take on the threat that has claimed so many American lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. It would fully fund the President's request for \$7.5 billion to train and equip the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police.

This legislation sends a vital message to our men and women in uniform that we, as a nation, stand behind them and appreciate their service.

We are at this point because all our dedicated Members and all our dedicated staff members—on both sides of the Capitol—were all willing to hit on

all cylinders and keep this bill rolling along.

Of course, I want to start by thanking my partner and my friend, Senator MCCAIN, as well as all committee members, for their active roles in getting us to this point. Our counterparts on the House side, Congressmen IKE SKELTON and BUCK MCKEON and the House Armed Services Committee staff lead by Erin Conaton and Bob Simmons, also have our gratitude. Senator MCCAIN and I are extremely grateful to our own committee staff members who so willingly put all their legislative expertise into this bill. Not only is there a tremendous amount of legislative craftsmanship involved, but there is a mind-boggling number of administrative details that have to be meticulously tracked in this massive bill.

I again thank my partner and my friend, Senator MCCAIN, as well as all committee members for their active roles in getting us to this very historic moment when there is much in this bill that is so important to our troops, as well as a number of other provisions which are critically important to success in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Our dedicated, hard-working staff assistants in particular deserve a special mention for their extraordinary efforts in this regard. As a visible sign of the high regard in which we hold our staff, I ask unanimous consent to have all staff members' names printed in the RECORD. I offer here a list of the staff of the Armed Services Committee for that purpose.

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

STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Adam J. Barker, June M. Borawski, Joseph W. Bowab, Leah C. Brewer, Christian D. Brose, Joseph M. Bryan, Pablo E. Carrillo, Jonathan D. Clark, Iona R. Cohen, Christine E. Cowart, Madelyn R. Creedon, Kevin A. Cronin, Richard D. DeBobes, Gabriella Eisen, Richard W. Fieldhouse, Creighton Greene, Howard H. Hoega III, Gary J. Howard, Paul J. Hubbard, Paul C. Hutton IV, Jessica L. Kingston, Jennifer R. Knowles, Michael V. Kostiw, Michael J. Kuiken, Mary J. Kyle, Christine G. Lang, and Terence K. Laughlin.

Gerald J. Leeling, Daniel A. Lerner, Peter K. Levine, Gregory R. Lilly, Hannah I. Lloyd, Jason W. Maroney, Thomas K. McConnell, William G. P. Monahan, David M. Morriss, Lucian L. Niemeyer, Michael J. Noblet, Christopher J. Paul, Cindy Pearson, Roy F. Phillips, John H. Quirk V, Brian F. Sebold, Arun A. Seraphin, Russell L. Shaffer, Travis E. Smith, Jennifer L. Stoker, William K. Sutey, Diana G. Tabler, Mary Louise Wagner, Richard F. Walsh, Breon N. Wells, and Dana W. White.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; that during morning business, Senator BROWN control up to 1 hour; and that during that time, he be permitted to enter into colloquies.

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

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

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as the Senate continues to discuss in various ways the issue of health care, I wanted to comment once again on the need, when the health care bill is finally brought to the floor, open for debate and amendment, to offer an amendment, which I and others will do, to address the cost of prescription drugs. One of the significant areas of cost increases for medicine is in prescription drugs.

Prescription drugs are unbelievably important. Many people manage their diseases with prescription drugs that were not available years or decades ago. Those people who are able to access prescription drugs for disease management are able to keep out of the hospital and avoid being in an acute-care bed, which is the costliest form of health care.

I understand the importance of prescription drugs in the health care system. I want us to continue to incentivize the development of new drugs, research and development. We do a lot of that through the National Institutes of Health, and so, too, do the pharmaceutical companies engage in research and development. But even as we do all of that to try to incentivize development of additional drugs and make them available for disease management, it is important to understand that part of the process of trying to put some downward pressure on health care costs is to put some downward pressure on the price of prescription drugs. It is a fact that we pay the highest prices in the world for brand-name prescription drugs. That is just a fact. In my judgment, it is not fair.

When a bill does come to the floor, I and a number of my colleagues—there are over 30 who have cosponsored legislation on prescription drugs—will offer as an amendment the legislation we have drafted together. It has significant safety provisions in it. It would