

ensure that all agencies and departments of the Federal Government will lend a hand to servicemembers, veterans, and their families.

Our Nation asks a lot of military families. Military families must provide support in innumerable ways during a deployment. From child care, to paying bills, dealing with legal issues and household repairs, military families work together to deal with the absence of the servicemember. Should a servicemember return home wounded or weakened by the tolls of war, we ask military families to help take care of their son or daughter, husband or wife.

We hope and pray that all those who are sent to war will return safely to the arms of their loved ones. However, we know that this is not always the case. Since the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan began, there have been far too many funerals of talented and patriotic Oregonians who have died in service to their country.

Although nothing the Government can do will ever make up for the loss of a loved one, we do extend certain benefits to the parents of those who are killed in war. Today, along with Senators LIEBERMAN, COLLINS, AKAKA, I am introducing the Gold Star Fathers Act to update one of those benefits; the preferences for Federal hiring to ensure that the parents of fallen servicemembers have no barriers to Federal service.

The Office of Personnel Management currently allows unmarried mothers of fallen soldiers to claim a 10-point veterans' preference when applying for Federal jobs. The Gold Star Fathers Act would simply extend this preference to unmarried fathers of fallen soldiers. This legislation will expand opportunities for Gold Star families to bring their dedication, compassion, and patriotism to the Federal Government. It is my hope that this legislation can be passed quickly.

These Gold Star Mothers and Gold Star Fathers have sacrificed more than we as a country can ever hope to repay. All we can ever hope to do is to ensure that these sacrifices are never made in vain.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 514

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gold Star Fathers Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. PREFERENCE ELIGIBLE TREATMENT FOR FATHERS OF CERTAIN PERMANENTLY DISABLED OR DECEASED VETERANS.

Section 2108(3) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (F) and (G) and inserting the following:

"(F) the parent of an individual who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving in the armed forces during a

period named by paragraph (1)(A) of this section, if—

"(i) the spouse of that parent is totally and permanently disabled; or

"(ii) that parent, when preference is claimed, is unmarried or, if married, legally separated from his or her spouse;

"(G) the parent of a service-connected permanently and totally disabled veteran, if—

"(i) the spouse of that parent is totally and permanently disabled; or

"(ii) that parent, when preference is claimed, is unmarried or, if married, legally separated from his or her spouse; and"

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by this Act shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 94—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE IN SUPPORT OF REDUCING ITS BUDGET BY AT LEAST 5 PERCENT

Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mr. COATS, Mr. JOHANNIS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. THUNE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 94

Whereas, the current level Federal spending is unsustainable and action to reverse this course should not be delayed;

Whereas, in 2010 Federal spending was nearly 24 percent of the value of all the goods and services produced in the United States;

Whereas, the Federal deficit was over \$1 trillion in fiscal year 2010;

Whereas, Federal spending is at its highest percentage since World War II;

Whereas, the Congressional Budget Office estimates if the United States maintains its current track of Federal spending, the Federal debt would reach 90 percent of the value of all the goods and services produced in the United States by 2020;

Whereas, the national debt exceeds \$13.9 trillion dollars;

Whereas, the United States borrows \$44,000 for every person in the country;

Whereas, the unemployment rate was 9.8 percent in December;

Whereas, the American people have responded to the economic downturn by making hard choices and trimming their family budgets;

Whereas, spending in the legislative branch rose nearly 50 percent over the last 10 years; and

Whereas, in order to address the nation's fiscal crisis, the Senate should lead by example and reduce its own legislative budget: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that it should lead by example and reduce the budget of the Senate by at least 5 percent.

SENATE RESOLUTION 95—INCREASING AWARENESS OF AND RECOGNIZING THE LIFE-SAVING ROLE OF OSTOMY CARE AND PROSTHETICS IN THE DAILY LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BURR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 95

Whereas over 700,000 individuals in the United States, from young children to senior citizens, have an ostomy, a surgical procedure that creates an artificial opening from the abdomen to the intestines or urinary system to allow for the elimination of bodily wastes;

Whereas active duty military personnel who are wounded in battle often receive an ostomy as a result of penetrating colorectal injuries;

Whereas an ostomy procedure can be essential to many patients who suffer on a daily basis from serious, chronic, or life-threatening traumatic injury to the abdomen, or other illnesses and conditions, such as colorectal or bladder cancer, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, birth defects, or other intestinal or urinary medical conditions;

Whereas following ostomy surgery, patients may need specially-fitted medical products to manage intestinal or urinary system function, temporarily or permanently restore intestinal or urinary system function, or re-establish activities of daily living, and improve quality of life;

Whereas ostomy products are prosthetic devices prescribed by health care providers, and ostomy products are prosthetic devices, as defined in section 1861(s)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(8));

Whereas policy and reimbursement approaches to ostomy products may affect access for patients in need;

Whereas ostomy products are customized to the clinical needs of individual patients and are not the same as other easily interchangeable medical supplies, such as gauze or bandages;

Whereas ostomy care and prosthetics can be important to restoring function and improving quality of life for patients in need of this care;

Whereas ongoing advances and innovation in ostomy prosthetics technology can dramatically improve the lives of individuals who undergo ostomy surgery by helping to normalize the intestinal or urinary system function of such individuals, improve physical well-being, and often enable the individual to rejoin the workforce; and

Whereas Congress recognizes the importance of encouraging and facilitating the development and use of new medical technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the life-saving role of ostomy care and prosthetics in the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of people in the United States;

(2) recognizes that if a surgical procedure results in a patient needing a prosthetic that manages or restores intestinal or urinary system function, specifically the control of the elimination of the body's waste products, it is important for such patient to have access to the care that will best meet the patient's needs; and

(3) encourages innovation of, and access to, medical devices that restore or improve intestinal or urinary system function of people in the United States with an ostomy.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 158. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1, making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 158. Mr. NELSON of Nebraska submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1, making appropriations for the Department of Defense and the other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page __, between lines __ and __, insert the following:

SEC. __. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

- (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—
 - (1) the debt of the United States exceeds \$14,000,000,000,000;
 - (2) it is important for Congress to use all tools at its disposal to address the national debt crisis;
 - (3) Congress will not earmark funds for projects requested by Members of Congress; and
 - (4) the earmark ban should be utilized to realize actual savings.
- (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that Congress should reduce spending by the amount resulting from the recently announced earmark moratorium.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

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 a classified meeting has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room SVC-217, U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the meeting will be to receive information regarding cyber security and critical electric infrastructure.

For further information, please contact Kevin Huyler at (202) 224-6689 or Meagan Gins at (202) 224-0883.

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 a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2011, at 9:30 a.m., in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of this hearing is to examine current global investment trends in clean energy technologies and the impact of domestic policies on that investment.

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, DC 20510-6150, or by e-mail to Abigail_Campbell@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Mike Carr at (202) 224-8164 or Abigail Campbell at (202) 224-1219.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2011, at 9:45 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. 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 March 8, 2011, at 10 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2011, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2011, at 10 a.m., in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2011, at 10 a.m., in 215 Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled “Does the Tax System Support Economic Efficiency, Job Creation and Broad-Based Economic Growth?”

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

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2011. The Committee will meet in room 345 of the Cannon House Office Building beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2011, at 2:30 p.m.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES, AND COAST GUARD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2011, at 10:30 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, THE FEDERAL WORKFORCE, AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 8, 2011, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing entitled “State Department Training: Investing in the Workforce to Address 21 Century Challenges.”

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

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. UDALL of Colorado). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,

MARCH 9, 2011

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday, March 9; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, there be a period of morning business until 10:40 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that at 10:40 a.m., the Senate recess