

My bipartisan cosponsors and I consulted extensively with postal customers, both business and residential, postal workers, and local communities deeply committed to preserving their postal facilities. We could not have gotten this bill passed through the Senate without their important contributions, cooperation, creativity and support.

This bill would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our staff, and I'd like to recognize some of them personally.

Katy French, John Kane, Katie Adams, and Cassie D'Souza on my staff, have been working for four months as if this bill were coming to the floor the next day. My Committee staff director, Nick Rossi, press secretary, E.R. Anderson, and other members of our team have ably supported them. Justin Stevens on Senator SCOTT BROWN's staff has been an incredible partner as well.

Their colleagues across the aisle were models of hard work and collegiality, and I want to thank them, especially the Chairman's staff, Mike Alexander, Beth Grossman, Kenya Wiley, and Larry Novey, and John Kilvington of Senator CARPER's staff. I know it's been hard work, but the staff have the highest level of professionalism, collegiality, patience with each other and the process and it's made the challenge of bringing this bill to the floor a rewarding one.

Finally, I can't thank enough the long-suffering floor staff, who have been incredibly patient, helpful and have gone out of their way to serve many competing agendas with grace. Thank you especially to David Schiappa with Senator McCONNELL's staff and his team in the Republican cloakroom, and Gary Myrick and his team, with the Majority Leader.

Our work isn't done. Today is just the first step on a long road ahead. We must move a bill to the President's desk. The House has a bill that awaits floor consideration. We will come together for a conference process. More compromises will have to be made along the way. But we can't forget the urgency of our task—saving the Postal Service for the next generation of Americans.

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Madam President, I thank my colleagues for their support on final passage of this critical piece of legislation.

This is an important first step forward towards putting the Postal Service on a path for solvency and success in the future.

The long-term survival of the Postal Service is an issue that touches every single home, community, and business in this country, including in my home State of Massachusetts. Its poor financial health is a real problem.

There is an envelope company in Worcester that has had to recently lay off almost a third of its workforce because incoming orders have dropped by a quarter from last year. The owner

says his customers have told him that they have stopped mailing because of the unknown future of the Postal Service. This is but one example of the impact that a failing Postal Service has on businesses large and small across the country.

So, that is why I am so pleased that we can show the American people that, yes, once again the U.S. Senate can come together in a bipartisan manner and solve real problems.

In a Congress infamous for gridlock and division, the passage of this bill is proof positive of the results when we work together in good faith.

Reforming the Postal Service is no easy task and there are no easy answers. Millions of jobs, a trillion-dollar mailing industry, and an institution as old as this Nation are all at stake.

But this shows that a majority of Members here knew that resolving the crisis at the Postal Service would require a balanced approach, some difficult decisions, and a lot of compromise to see a bill passed.

We all recognize the new business environment that the Postal Service operates in, but we also know that the focus had to be on helping the Postal Service sustain their customer base in that environment, not surrender to it.

I am proud of this bill and the example this sets for the power of bipartisanship for the rest of this session.

The other cosponsors—Senators LIEBERMAN, COLLINS, and CARPER have been setting this example for some time. I have been proud to be in their company on this bill and thank them for their leadership on this important issue.

With the recent passage of the STOCK Act and the crowdfunding bill, I feel like we have all been on kind of a streak lately. I hope that it continues and that our colleagues in the House can now take our lead and pass a balanced postal reform bill as well. The Postal Service is running out of time and they cannot afford any further delay.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I voted against S. 1789 because short-term financial relief for the Postal Service that will ultimately lead to a taxpayer bailout is no longer acceptable. According to the Postal Service, S. 1789 "does not provide the Postal Service with the speed and flexibility it needs to achieve the \$20 billion in cost reductions" and they will need additional legislative action in 2 to 3 years.

The bill is designed to keep the current failing Postal Service business model in place by halting the structural changes the Postal Service says it needs to ensure its long-term viability. Instead of the Senate dealing with the real problems, such as 80 percent labor costs and consolidating the excess retail network of the Postal Service, the bill continues to allow no-lay-off clauses in union contracts, will lock in unsustainable mail service standards, and place new litigious processes, restrictions, regulations, and appeals

that will make it impossible for the Postal Service to close and consolidate underutilized post offices and mail-processing facilities. These roadblocks fly in the face of the hard reality that the Postal Service lost \$13 billion in the past 2 years due to its failing business model and the changes in the way the American public communicates.

S. 1789 also prevents the Postal Service from moving to 5-day delivery, at a savings of anywhere from \$1.7 to \$3 billion annually and is one of the largest single steps available to restore their financial solvency. The Postmaster General has been coming to Congress since 2009 asking for this flexibility, and the American people overwhelmingly support this move. The Senate, however, chose to protect the 6-day delivery of junk mail even with first-class mail, which makes up more than half of postal revenues, on a downward spiral with no sign of recovery.

Finally, this bill continues the harmful practice of passing bills that are not paid for. S. 1789 has at least five budget points of order against it, and instead of being fiscally responsible and pay for this bill as promised, the Senate agreed to move forward and stick the American taxpayer with the tab. If we are not willing to keep our promise and abide by the spending limits we put in place, we are not really serious about fixing our countries financial problems.

Congress can no longer enact temporary fixes that avert financial crisis for only a brief period. If we continue to act in this irresponsible way, the American taxpayer will be the one that ultimately suffers in the form of higher postage prices and taxpayer bailouts. We must make hard choices now so future generations of Americans will have a viable Postal Service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, there are a number of issues we are trying to resolve and we are going to try to do that as quickly as possible and notify the Senate as to what is going to happen next. At this stage, I don't know, but we are working on it. So I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1925

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the adoption of the motion to proceed to S. 1925, the Senate be in a period of debate