CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE

10977

May 26, 1999

BUDGETARY IMPACT

Section 308(a)(1)(A) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-344), as amended, requires that the report accompanying a bill providing new budget authority contain a statement detailing how that authority compares with the reports submitted under section 302 of the act for the most recently agreed to concurrent resolution on the budget for the fiscal year. All funds recommended in this bill are emergency funding requirements, offset herein.

FIVE-YEAR PROJECTION OF OUTLAYS

In compliance with section 308(a)(1)(C) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-344), as amended, the following table contains 5-year projections associated with the budget authority provided in the accompanying bill:

| Fiscal Year 1999 Supplemental Appropriations and Recisions (in millions of dollars) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Budget authority               | Outlays                         |
|Defense discretionary           | -270                            |
|Nondefense discretionary        | -128                            |
|Mandatory                       |                                 |
|Total                           | -270                            |
|Five year projections: Outlays: |                                 |
|Fiscal year 1999                | -128                            |
|Fiscal year 2000                | -112                            |
|Fiscal year 2001                | -108                            |
|Fiscal year 2002                | -108                            |
|Fiscal year 2003                | -108                            |
|Financial Assistance to State and Local Governments | |

Note: The above table includes mandatory and discretionary appropriations, and excludes emergency appropriations.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, May 25, 1999, the Federal debt stood at $5,600,993,485,850.44 (Five trillion, six hundred billion, nine hundred ninety-three million, four hundred eighty-five hundred eighty-five dollars and forty-four cents).

Five years ago, May 25, 1994, the Federal debt stood at $4,594,146,000,000 (Four trillion, five hundred ninety-four billion, one hundred forty-six million).

Ten years ago, May 25, 1989, the Federal debt stood at $2,779,572,000,000 (Two trillion, seven hundred seventy-nine billion, five hundred seventy-two million).

Fifteen years ago, May 25, 1984, the Federal debt stood at $1,489,052,000,000 (One trillion, four hundred eighty-nine billion, fifty-two million).

This bill provides that the Secretary of Defense will administer the program under rules similar to the WIC program administered by the Secretary of Agriculture within the United States.

WIC FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have been circulating drafts of bills designed to provide WIC benefits to military personnel and to certain civilian personnel, stationed overseas, for a few weeks. I know that Senator Harkin and other Senators on both sides of the aisle have also been working on this matter as have members of the other body.

I have received valuable input regarding my drafts from Members, national organizations and even personnel stationed overseas and I appreciate all who have helped. This bill introduction does not mean that I am no longer seeking input. On the contrary, as I have always handled nutrition legislation, I want to work with all Members on this important legislation, which I hope can be unanimously passed.

Basically, the Strengthening Families in the Military Service Act authorizes to provide WIC benefits to military and associated civilian personnel stationed overseas. If it makes sense to allow those stationed in the United States to participate in WIC, it makes sense to allow those stationed overseas to have the important nutritional benefits of that program. Why should families lose their benefits when they are moved overseas?

This bill provides that the Secretary of Defense will administer the program under rules similar to the WIC program administered by the Secretary of Agriculture within the United States.

This bill also disregards the value of in kind housing assistance in calculating eligibility which increases the number of women, infants and children that can participate and makes the program more similar to the program in the United States. The CBO has estimated that the average monthly food cost would be about $28 for each participant based on a Department of Defense estimate of the cost of an average WIC food package in military commissaries. Administration costs which include health and nutrition assessments are likely to be about $7 per month per participant, according to CBO.

I am advised that counting the value of in kind housing assistance as though it were cash assistance would reduce the cost of this program to $2 million per year and that 5,100 women and children would participate in an average month under such an approach. This will be an issue which I look forward to discussing with my colleagues.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

8.—

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 “Strengthening Families in the Military Service Act of 1999”.

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SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) Congress finds that—

(1) prenatal care and proper nutrition for pregnant women reduces the incidence of birth abnormalities and low birth weight among infants;

(2) proper nutrition for infants and young children has very positive health and growth benefits; and

(3) women, infants, and children of military families stationed outside the United States are potentially at nutritional risk.

(b) The purpose of this Act is to ensure that women, infants, and children of military families stationed outside the United States receive supplemental foods and nutrition education if they generally would be eligible to receive supplemental foods and nutrition education provided in the United States under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

SEC. 3. SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION BENEFITS FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN OF MILITARY FAMILIES STATIONED OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

Section 1606a of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (h); and

(2) by striking subsections (a) through (e) and inserting in lieu thereof—

``(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish and carry out a program to provide, at no cost to the recipient, supplemental foods and nutrition education to—

``(1) low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to 5 years of age of military families of the armed forces of the United States stationed outside the United States (and its territories and possessions); and

``(2) eligible civilians serving with, employed by, or accompanying the armed forces outside the United States (and its territories and possessions).

``(b) ADMINISTRATION.—Except as otherwise provided, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall operate the program under this section in a manner that is similar to the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786).

``(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section that are as similar as practicable to regulations promulgated to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, but that take into account—

``(1) the need to use military personnel to carry out functions under the program established under this section, including functions relating to supplemental foods, nutrition education, eligibility determinations, oversight, enforcement, auditing, financial management, delivery of benefits and program information, handling of local operations and administration, and reporting and recordkeeping;

``(2) the need to limit military personnel participation to certain military installations to ensure efficient program operations using funds made available to carry out this section;

``(3) the need to limit participation to certain foreign countries of exchange stores, commissary stores, and other sources of supplemental foods; and

``(4) other factors or circumstances determined appropriate by the Secretary of Defense, including the need to phase-in program operations during fiscal year 2000.

``(d) ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY.—In carrying out this section—

``(1) the Secretary of Defense shall be responsible for the implementation, management, and operation of the program established under this section, including the proper expenditure of funds made available to carry out this section.

``(2) INVESTIGATION AND MONITORING.—The Inspectors General of the Armed Forces and the Department of Defense shall investigate and monitor the implementation of this section.

``(e) RECORDS.—The Secretary of Defense shall require that such accounts and records (including medical records) be maintained as are necessary to enable the Secretary of Defense to—

``(1) determine whether there has been compliance with this section; and

``(2) determine and evaluate the adequacy of benefits provided under this section.

``(f) REPORT.—

``(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than March 1, 2001, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, shall submit a report describing the implementation of this section to—

``(A) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

``(B) the Committees on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

``(C) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate; and

``(D) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

``(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include a description of—

``(A) the number of participating states, typical food packages, health and nutrition assessment procedures, eligibility determinations, management difficulties, and benefits of the program established under this section.

``(g) FUNDING.—

``(1) IN GENERAL.—Out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall provide to the Secretary of Defense to carry out this section—

``(A) $8,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;

``(B) $12,000,000 for fiscal year 2001; and

``(C) $12,000,000 for fiscal year 2002.

``(2) RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE.—The Secretary of Defense shall be entitled to receive the funds and shall accept the funds, without further appropriation.”.

IMPORTED FOOD SAFETY ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to join with Senator COLLINS in introducing S. 1123, the Imported Food Safety Act of 1999. This legislation will address a growing problem that affects everyone in this nation, the safety of the food that we eat.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates as many as 9,100 deaths are attributed to foodborne illness each year in the United States. In addition there are tens of millions of cases of foodborne illness that occur, the majority of which go unreported due to the fact that they are not severe enough to warrant medical attention.

The legislation that Senator COLLINS and I have crafted will target one of the most critical areas in helping to provide Americans with the safest food possible—the safety of imported food. The CDC has recognized that as trade and economic development increases, the globalization of food supplies is likely to have an increasing impact on foodborne illnesses.

Currently, one-half of all the seafood and one-third of all the fresh fruit consumed in the United States comes from overseas. In fact, since the 1980’s food imports to the U.S. have doubled, but federal inspections by Food and Drug Administration have dropped by 50 percent.

Over the years there have been foodborne pathogen outbreaks involving raspberries from Guatemala, strawberries from Mexico, scallions, parsley with a history of import violations to Peru, coconut milk from Thailand, canned mushrooms from China and others. These outbreaks have serious consequences. The Mexican frozen strawberries I have just noted were distributed in the school lunch programs in one state and illnesses in the same state and illnesses in one state of Tennessee, were attributed to the food safety. As Chairman of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations and chairperson of the Senate Subcommittee on Public Health, I look forward to working with Senator COLLINS and the rest of my colleagues on the issue of food safety and our overall efforts in improving.