

I am particularly proud of the great strides this legislation makes in improving current law. The legislation includes my provision to prevent deadbeat parents from using bankruptcy to avoid paying child support. It includes my provision to protect educational savings accounts that parents and grandparents set up for their children and grandchildren. And, it includes my provision that ensures that the retirement savings of teachers and church workers are given the same protection in bankruptcy as everyone else. It includes my provision that prevents violent criminals and drug traffickers from taking advantage of bankruptcy at the expense of their victims. Specifically, when these criminals voluntarily file for bankruptcy, my provision protects victims by allowing them to move for dismissal of the bankruptcy case. The legislation also includes my provision that is designed to curb fraud in bankruptcy filings by putting in place new procedures and providing new resources to enhance enforcement of bankruptcy fraud laws. My provision requires (1) that bankruptcy courts develop procedures for referring suspected fraud in bankruptcy schedules to the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office for investigation and prosecution and (2) that the Attorney General designate one Assistant U.S. Attorney and one FBI agent in each judicial district as having primary responsibility for investigating and prosecuting fraud in bankruptcy.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge a few people who have worked very hard on this legislation. On my staff, I particularly would like to thank the Committee's Chief Counsel and Staff Director, Manus Cooney, the counsels who worked diligently on this measure, Makan Delrahim, Rene Augustine and Kyle Sampson, and staff assistant Katie Stahl. On Senator LEAHY's Committee staff, I want to recognize Minority Chief Counsel Bruce Cohen, along with counsel Ed Pagano. On the Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee, I would like to thank John McMickle and Kolan Davis, counsels to Senator GRASSLEY, and Jennifer Leach, counsel to Senator TORRICELLI, for their tireless efforts and input. My thanks also goes to Ed Haden and Sean Costello, counsels to Senator SESSIONS. I also would like to express my gratitude to Senate Legislative Counsel, and in particular I want to recognize Laura Ayoud of that office, whose hard work made this bill a better product. Without the dedication and efforts of these loyal public servants, the important reforms in this legislation would not have been possible. Thank you.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.J. RES. 127

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have been asked to propound this unan-

imous consent request which, I have been told, has been approved on both sides.

I ask unanimous consent that immediately following the vote on the passage of the bankruptcy legislation, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.J. Res. 127, the continuing resolution. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be read a third time and that the Senate then proceed to a vote on passage of the resolution, with no intervening action or debate.

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

BANKRUPTCY REFORM ACT OF
2000—CONFERENCE REPORT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, how much time do I have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, responding to my friend from Iowa, the President has called Senators and for good reason: This is a piece of legislation that has very little balance.

I gave the example again of LTV workers in the iron range of Minnesota which is going to shut down in February. One month later, there could be an illness in a family, a medical bill, the worker no longer has a job and cannot pay the mortgage.

Under this piece of legislation, what would be the income that is calculated? Would it be the income of this family with the head of the household unemployed? No. Under this bill, in order to see whether this family could file under chapter 7, you would look over the past 6 months and average out the income all the months he or she was working. But they do not have a job.

Most of the people file for chapter 7 because of a major medical bill. It is 50 percent. Only about 3 percent game this system.

Now we have a piece of legislation that does not ask the credit card companies to be accountable, does not do anything about their egregious practices, targets the most vulnerable people, and has very little balance. This piece of legislation should be defeated. That is why the President is opposed to it. That is why labor, civil rights, women, children, consumer organizations, all oppose this piece of legislation. I say to my colleagues, it is too harsh. It is without balance. I know there is a powerful economic constituency behind it, but I hope you will vote against it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate all the Senators who have been working on this issue and, in

particular, the chairman who is standing here, Senator GRASSLEY, and has been here many times.

Today, in an extended session, we will finally reform the bankruptcy laws of America. They are very important because credit in America, be it from banks, from individual lenders, wherever, is really the heartbeat of what makes us tick and permits us to give our citizens material means. Without credit, things do not work in America.

Every now and then, we have to fix the bankruptcy laws so they work in behalf of not only the debtors but the creditors of America. That is what we are doing here. I think it will pass overwhelmingly.

My thanks to those who have worked so hard on it. I cannot claim to be one of them.

Again, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY has great persistence, and this is a tribute to him and a good start to his chairmanship of the Finance Committee.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The hour of 3:45 p.m. having arrived, the question is on agreeing to the conference report to accompany H.R. 2415. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FITZGERALD (when his name was called). Present.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 297 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Abraham	Dorgan	McCain
Allard	Enzi	McConnell
Ashcroft	Frist	Miller
Bayh	Gorton	Murkowski
Bennett	Graham	Nickles
Biden	Gramm	Robb
Bingaman	Grams	Roberts
Bond	Grassley	Roth
Breaux	Gregg	Santorum
Brownback	Hagel	Sessions
Bryan	Hatch	Shelby
Bunning	Helms	Smith (NH)
Burns	Hollings	Smith (OR)
Byrd	Hutchinson	Snowe
Campbell	Hutchison	Specter
Chafee, L.	Inhofe	Stevens
Cleland	Jeffords	Thomas
Cochran	Johnson	Thompson
Collins	Kerrey	Thurmond
Conrad	Kyl	Torricelli
Craig	Lincoln	Voinovich
Crapo	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	
Domenici	Mack	

NAYS—28

Akaka	Edwards	Kerry
Baucus	Feingold	Kohl
Boxer	Feinstein	Lautenberg
Daschle	Harkin	Leahy
Dodd	Inouye	Levin
Durbin	Kennedy	Lieberman