The CBO staff contact for federal costs is Josephine Geoghegan. The CBO staff contact for private-sector mandates is Paige Piper/Bach. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY RESEARCH

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, S. 805, introduced on May 1, is a vital step toward the day when advanced research will find ways to halt, and even cure, life-threatening muscular dystrophy.

Muscular dystrophy is a genetic disorder, actually a number of separate disorders, that are characterized by weakening and eventual wasting of muscles throughout the body. A quarter of a million Americans of all ages are affected by the gene defects of Duchenne, Duchenne, Duchenne, Duchenne! 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Tuesday, July 23, 2001

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off. I have seen jean factories in Elkins and Phillipi, a shoe plant in Martinsville, glassworks in Huntington, and a shirt factory in Morgantown, close down because of foreign competition, throwing hundreds of people—many of whom had never held another job—out of work.

Many of the workers are in their 20's and 30's with young children to support. Others are in their 40's and 50's and have held the same job for more than 20 years. A few may never find work again. For those who do, it will be at a vastly reduced salary with fewer benefits. And as plants continue to close down, who knows if the health care and pension benefits that were guaranteed by their employers and which those workers thought they could depend on will still be there for them when they retire?

It makes me angry that we as a Nation have not done nearly enough to help those who have been dislocated from foreign competition, through no fault of their own, particularly when our trade policies led to their unemployment. Instead, we have provided a TAA program for which many of our workers do not qualify and which provides too little assistance to workers to retain so that they can adequately provide for their families. That is just not right.

At the same time, our foreign trade partners continue to engage in unfair and illegal trade practices that throw more and more Americans out of work. For years, the relative market shares of the top Japanese steel firms has never varied by more than 1 percent, regardless of changes in the marketplace, because they have a cartel, Russian steelworkers often do not receive wages. New uneconomic steel capacity continues to come on line around the world, often partially funded by loans from international financial institutions that receive U.S. Government funding.

Yet our steelworkers, glassworkers, and others in the manufacturing sector of our economy are forced to compete on the same playing field with these countries, whose producers are heavily subsidized or who have benefitted from a long legacy of indirect government assistance or toleration of anti-competitive activities. Such practices have allowed foreign steel companies to stay in business even after they would have shut down if they were located in the United States. How are our workers supposed to compete with that, no matter how efficient they are?

It is no wonder that people in this country begin to wake up to our trade policies and wonder just what we are doing and what principles, if any, we are using to guide them. You should not need to have an MBA from Harvard in order to get a good job, with good wages and benefits, in this country.

If this Administration wants to negotiate more trade agreements, without dealing with the impact that trade has on our steelworkers and workers in other sectors of our economy who built this superpower that it is today, then it will fail miserably.

This bill is a good step forward. I urge my colleagues in Congress to help us pass it and the President to sign it into law. But it is only the beginning.

We simply cannot ignore the fact that with trade, a rising tide does not always lift all boats. Our laws are not the laws of nature, but rather, the laws of mankind. We cannot say that dislocation through trade is inevitable and just throw up our hands, leaving millions of American workers behind.

We have an obligation to them and to their families, to craft trade policies that are to their benefit and which help them prepare for the future. It is an obligation that we simply cannot ignore.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business Friday, July 20, 2001, the Federal debt stood at $5,723,280,631,657.09, five trillion, seven hundred twenty-three billion, three million, six hundred eighty million, six hundred thirty-one thousand, six hundred fifty-seven dollars and nine cents.

One year ago, July 20, 2000, the Federal debt stood at $5,665,030,000,000, five trillion, six hundred sixty-five billion, five hundred three million.

Twenty-five years ago, July 20, 1976, the Federal debt stood at $619,038,000,000, six hundred nineteen billion, thirty-eight million, which represents one and a half percent of the gross national product.

Mr. HELMS. Madam President, at the close of business Friday, July 20, 2001, the Federal debt stood at $5,723,280,631,657.09, five trillion, seven hundred twenty-three billion, three million, six hundred eighty million, six hundred thirty-one thousand, six hundred fifty-seven dollars and nine cents.

The decreasing percentage of our Federal debt to GNP is a reflection of the fact that our economic strength is growing stronger. It is all the more reason why we should work to contain the growth of our Federal debt for the future.

While the robust job market of the '90s has thinned the ranks of minimum-wage workers—only about 1% of hourly employees earn exactly $5.15 an hour now, down from more than 5% in 1980—families are still struggling to make ends meet. And the child poverty rate was 13% in 1990 and 16% in 2000. Nearly 1 in 5 children in America (37 million) lives in poverty.

The President's proposal is the right direction, and Administration's $5.15 minimum wage increase is a good first step. I urge my colleagues to pass it and the President to sign it into law.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask that the following article from the Wall Street Journal, dated July 19, 2001, be printed in the RECORD.

[From the Wall Street Journal, July 19, 2001]

BY RICK WARTMAN

FALLING BEHIND—AS OFFICIALS LOSE FAITH IN THE MINIMUM WAGE, PAT WILLIAMS LIVED IT

SHREVEPORT, LA.—Night had fallen by the time Pat Williams, hungry and bone tired, arrived home to find the little red ticket, mocking the more than 10 hours of toil she had just put in.

"Oh, Lord," she said, reaching into her purse. "What is this?" She swatted a mosquito, held the ticket to the light above her front stoop and took in the bad news: Reliant Energy Inc. had cut off her gas because her account was 477 overdue.

"I ain't going to sweat it," she muttered over and over. Clearly, though, she was wound tight, and soon began puffing on a succession of discount cigarettes.

It was early April, and Ms. Williams was dressed in the dark blue uniform that she wears at her first job, caring for the aged and infirm at a nursing home. Atop that was the gray apron she dons at her second job, cleaning offices at night. The place where she works as a nursing assistant, Harmony House, was paying her $5.55 an hour—barely above the minimum wage—even though she has been there more than 10 years, is a union member and completed college courses to become certified. The check she took up because she couldn't make ends meet, pays right at the federally mandated maximum: $5.15 an hour.

For the 46-year-old single mother with a bright smile and big dimples, life has never been easy. But, as she will tell you, it certainly has been easier.

When she began minimum-wage work more than two decades ago, Ms. Williams says, she had little difficulty paying her bills. Small inducements for her and her three children—a hamburger and fries or a cup of coffee, a new blouse, the occasional name-brand sneakers—weren't such a stretch. Most of all, Ms. Williams says, she 'probably could have made ends meet, over and over. Sometimes, she and her best friend, Ruby Moore, sit in Ms. Williams's back yard and, as trains thunder by, they talk about how things just can't get ahead. Ms. Moore, 51, has earned around the minimum wage for years, first by working in the kitchen of a drug-treatment center, and now by cooking for recovering addicts of a different sort—the gamblers who've surfaced along with the glittering casino boats on the Red River. "It's much harder than it used to be," she says. "I try to put money aside to skip this bill in order to pay that bill."

"You think you're moving forward," adds Ms. Williams, "but you're just moving backwards."

There's little wonder why. As a long-time low-wage worker, Ms. Williams has felt the sting of one of the most profound shifts in America's economic policy—a 20-year sea change that has tilted the economic playing field against millions of American workers behind. This bill is a good step forward. I urge my colleagues in Congress to help us pass it and the President to sign it into law. But it is only the beginning.

We simply cannot ignore the fact that with trade, a rising tide does not always lift all boats. Our laws are not the laws of nature, but rather, the laws of mankind. We cannot say that dislocation through trade is inevitable and just throw up our hands, leaving millions of American workers behind.

We have an obligation to them and to their families, to craft trade policies that are to their benefit and which help them prepare for the future. It is an obligation that we simply cannot ignore.