

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “fiscal years 2006 through 2008” and inserting “fiscal years 2009 through 2013”; and

(B) by striking “vulnerable children affected by” and inserting “other children affected by, or vulnerable to.”

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3186

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that upon disposition of S. 2731/H.R. 5501, the global AIDS legislation, the Senate then proceed to Calendar No. 835, S. 3186, which is a bill to provide for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I have asked the leader for clarification of the situation. My understanding is that, as things stood, we would be automatically moving on to discussion of PEPFAR. I appreciate the anxiety of the leader with regard to the situation, but, at the same time, from our standpoint on this side of the aisle, I have been advised we would need to object to that simply because the agreement our Members feel they have realized would be that we would move to PEPFAR today and have the debates on PEPFAR, as opposed to additional material.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would say to my friend that is absolutely what we are going to do. The only way we would not do that is if you object to it. I have explained in more detail than probably everyone wants to hear, but we have a situation now, procedurally in the Senate, where there is a spot open. It has nothing to do with PEPFAR. It is separate and apart from PEPFAR. There is an empty spot there that anyone can walk in here—any Senator can walk in here—and move to anything we have on the calendar. By doing that, of course, they could also accompany that with a cloture motion, and that is what we would be on. That would take away from what the President wants and, I would say, 90 Senators want. So I am not trying to take advantage of anyone. No one loses anything, nothing, other than the ability to sucker punch the entire Senate.

So I would say to my friend, the distinguished Senator from Indiana, if we are on this matter here, I would be happy to—and no harm can be done. If people do not want us to move to that, I could not do it. I could not do it anyway. I would have to have 60 Senators to agree to that. This is simply an effort to allow us to complete PEPFAR—without using the term too many times; this is the third time I have used it—with the entire Senate being sucker punched.

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

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we now proceed to a period of morning business, that Senator LUGAR be recognized to speak for up to one-half hour, and that following his speech, I be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the majority leader's previous request?

Mr. LUGAR. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the majority leader's pending request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that if and when we get on the PEPFAR legislation, the distinguished Senator from Indiana be recognized for an opening statement on the bill.

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

The Senator from Indiana is recognized.

#### PEPFAR

Mr. LUGAR. I thank the leader. I rise today in support of S. 2731, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Act Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. I thank Chairman JOE BIDEN for working with me and other Republicans to achieve a bipartisan approach for the reauthorization of our Nation's program to combat these diseases. I believe we will have an excellent bill before us that will preserve the best aspects of the President's Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief—PEPFAR—and expand the efforts of the United States to stem the tide of AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria worldwide.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic, coupled with the impact of tuberculosis and malaria, is rending the socioeconomic fabric of communities, nations, and an entire continent. The U.S. National Intelligence Council and innumerable top officials, including President Bush, have stated the HIV/AIDS pandemic is a threat to national and international security.

Communities are being hobbled by the disability and the loss of consumers and workers at the peak of their productive, reproductive, and care-giving years. In the most heavily affected areas, communities are losing a whole generation of parents, teachers, laborers, health care workers, peacekeepers, and police.

United Nations projections indicate that by 2020, HIV/AIDS will have de-

pressed GDP by more than 20 percent in the hardest hit countries. The World Bank recently warned that while the global economy is expected to more than double over the next 25 years, Africa is at risk of being left behind.

Many children who have lost parents to HIV/AIDS are left entirely on their own, leading to an epidemic of orphan-headed households. When they drop out of school to fend for themselves and their siblings, they lose the potential for economic empowerment that an education can provide. Alone and desperate, they sometimes resort to transactional sex or prostitution to survive and risk becoming infected with HIV themselves.

I believe that in addition to our own national security concerns, we have a humanitarian duty to take action. Five years ago, HIV was a death sentence for most individuals in the developing world who contracted that disease. Now there is hope. We should never forget that behind each number is a person—a human being—a life the United States can touch or even save.

PEPFAR has provided treatment to an estimated 1.4 million men, women, and children infected with HIV/AIDS in Africa and elsewhere. Before the program began, only 50,000 people in all of sub-Saharan Africa were receiving life-saving antiretroviral drugs. Today, three times that many are being treated in Kenya alone. PEPFAR also has focused on prevention programs, with the target of preventing 7 million new HIV infections. As Americans, we should take pride in our Nation's efforts to combat these diseases overseas.

We should understand that our investments in disease prevention programs have yielded enormous foreign policy benefits during the last 5 years. PEPFAR has helped to prevent instability and societal collapse in a number of at-risk countries; it has stimulated contributions from other wealthy nations to fight AIDS; it has facilitated deep partnerships with a generation of African leaders; and it has improved attitudes toward the United States and Africa and other regions of the world. In my judgment, the dollars spent on this program can be justified purely on the basis of the humanitarian results we have achieved, but the value of this investment clearly extends to our national security and to our national reputation.

I wish to emphasize three points that should guide our deliberations. First, it is important that Congress move now to reauthorize the program. The authorization expires in 2½ months. Partner governments and implementing organizations in the field have indicated that without certainty of reauthorization of this bill, they may delay expanding their programs to meet PEPFAR goals. Certainty of U.S. action is an important matter of perception, delivering something similar to