

the reduction of the annual deductible and the required coinsurance and through the elimination of the coverage gap, cost-sharing above the annual out-of-pocket threshold, and the assets test for low-income beneficiaries;

(3) eliminate overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans under part C of such title, including through the elimination of the MA Regional Plan Stabilization Fund, through the extension of refinements to the health status adjustment to plan payments, and through requiring that the Medicare Advantage capitation rate be based on the fee-for-services rate;

(4) reduce costs by allowing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate discounted prices on prescription drugs offered under a drug plan under such part D; by the amount provided in such measure for those purposes.

(b) REPEAL OF DIRECT SPENDING LIMITATION.—Section 406 shall be null and void.

SA 3009. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 83, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 and 2008 through 2011; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title III, add the following:

SEC. ____ . DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND TO PROTECT MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES WHO ENROLL IN THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT DURING 2006.

The Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the Senate may revise the allocations, aggregates, and other appropriate levels and limits in this resolution for a bill or joint resolution, or an amendment thereto or conference report thereon, that would—

(1) extend the annual open enrollment period under the Medicare prescription drug program under part D of title XVIII through all of 2006 without imposing a late enrollment penalty for months during such period; and

(2) allow a one-time change of plan enrollment under such program at any time during 2006;

by the amount provided in such measure for those purposes, provided that such legislation would not increase the deficit for the period of fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

SA 3010. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 83, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 and 2008 through 2011; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 24, line 24, increase the amount by \$2,000,000,000.

On page 24, line 25, increase the amount by \$2,000,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$2,000,000,000.

SA 3011. Mr. TALENT (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 83, setting forth

the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 and 2008 through 2011; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 9, line 20, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 9, line 21, increase the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 27, line 23, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

On page 27, line 24, decrease the amount by \$3,000,000,000.

SA 3012. Mr. KENNEDY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution S. Con. Res. 83, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2007 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 and 2008 through 2011; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . SENSE OF THE SENATE CONCERNING AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE.

It is the sense of the Senate that the levels in this resolution assume that Congress should enact legislation to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) to increase the Federal minimum wage by \$2.10, with a \$0.70 increase effective 60 days after the passage of this resolution, a \$0.70 increase effective 12 months after that 60th day, and a \$0.70 increase effective 24 months after that 60th day.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 13, 2006, at 3 p.m. in closed session to receive a briefing from the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following detailees and interns with the Senate Finance Committee be granted privileges of the floor during the Senate's consideration of the budget resolution: Mary Baker, Robin Burgess, Tiffany Smith, Tom Louthan, Margaret Hathaway, Laura Kellams, Leona Cuttler, Deidra Henry-Spires, David Schwartz, Richard Litsey, Stuart Sirkin, Zachary Henderson, Lesley Meeker, Britt Sandler, Lauren Shields, Jordan Murray, and Will Larson.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate im-

mediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar Nos. 549, 551, 552, 554, 555, 557, 558, 559, 560, 562, 563, 564, 565, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed en bloc, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Terrance P. Flynn, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of New York for the term of four years.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Michell C. Clark, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary for Management, Department of Education.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Edwin G. Foulke, Jr., of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Jean B. Elshain, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for the remainder of the term expiring January 26, 2010.

Allen C. Guelzo, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2012.

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP FOUNDATION

George Perdue, of Georgia, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation for a term expiring November 5, 2006.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Anne-Imelda Radice, of Vermont, to be Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Craig T. Ramey, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the National Board for Education Sciences for a term of two years.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

Sarah M. Singleton, of New Mexico, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation for a term expiring July 13, 2008.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr., of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

John Charles Richter, of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Amul R. Thapar, of Kentucky, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of four years.

Mauricio J. Tamargo, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States for a term expiring September 30, 2009.

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

PN936 Public Health Service nomination of Leah Hill, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 28, 2005.

PN937 Public Health Service nominations (262) beginning Gregory A. Abbott, and ending Carl A. Huffman III, which nominations