

in the Vice President's Office with my Republican colleagues to explain the status of that bill. I think the distinguished chairman has set up a similar meeting for his colleagues.

Mr. REID. I think I have covered everything we need to do before we leave. Again, I would say it is not a question of us leaving on a given day or time, but it is a question of being able to complete our work before we go, and we have an opportunity to do that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, a couple of words underlying what the leader said in his remarks. These are not only for our membership but also for the other body.

The underlying bill has mental health parity in it. The underlying bill is also 2-year extenders. We are wrapped around the axle too much in this body by having actual extenders every year. This is 2 years.

Third, this is a compromise between both bodies. They want everything paid for, this body does not. It is a compromise in the middle. For those reasons, I very much hope the other body supports this measure we are about to adopt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the engrossment of the amendments and third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed, and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the passage of the bill, as amended.

Mrs. BOXER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

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

The result was announced—yeas, 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 205 Leg.]

YEAS—93

Akaka	Brownback	Coleman
Alexander	Bunning	Collins
Allard	Burr	Corker
Barrasso	Byrd	Cornyn
Baucus	Cantwell	Craig
Bayh	Cardin	Crapo
Bennett	Casey	Dodd
Bingaman	Chambliss	Dole
Bond	Clinton	Domenici
Boxer	Coburn	Dorgan
Brown	Cochran	Durbin

Ensign	Lautenberg	Salazar
Enzi	Leahy	Sanders
Feingold	Levin	Schumer
Feinstein	Lieberman	Sessions
Graham	Lincoln	Shelby
Grassley	Lugar	Smith
Gregg	Martinez	Snowe
Hagel	McCaskill	Specter
Harkin	McConnell	Stabenow
Hatch	Menendez	Stevens
Hutchison	Mikulski	Sununu
Inhofe	Murkowski	Tester
Inouye	Murray	Thune
Isakson	Nelson (FL)	Vitter
Johnson	Nelson (NE)	Voivovich
Kerry	Pryor	Warner
Klobuchar	Reed	Webb
Kohl	Reid	Whitehouse
Kyl	Roberts	Wicker
Landrieu	Rockefeller	Wyden

NAYS—2

Carper
Conrad

NOT VOTING—5

Biden	Kennedy	Obama
DeMint	McCain	

The bill (H.R. 6049) as amended, was passed, as follows:

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to a period of morning business. Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The Senator from Idaho.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following my remarks, the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, be recognized.

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

TIMBER-DEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, while I think most of us have been focused on H.R. 6049, as amended by the Senate, primarily on the tax extenders and some of the energy tax credits and provisions that we believe are critically important to our economy and to the American business sector that is, by any measure, having difficulty at the moment, something is also in this legislation that is phenomenally important to timber-dependent school districts throughout the United States but dominantly in the Pacific Northwest. That is a provision called the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Program.

Now, if I were in Oregon, I would call it the Wyden-Craig bill. If I am in Idaho, I call it the Craig-Wyden bill. It is legislation that both Senator WYDEN and I, a good number of years ago, fashioned when I was chairing the Forestry and Public Lands Subcommittee and he was my ranking member, when we came to the Senate and said we have the rural schools of our timber-dependent communities and counties in crisis.

Through the decade of the 1990s, we saw a dramatic reduction in the allow-

able cut of timber on our public land forests for a variety of reasons. As a result, a 1908 policy, established by Gifford Pinchot and President Teddy Roosevelt, said if we are going to create these forest preserves, we have to connect the communities of interest with them. By that, I do not mean the Sierra Club. I mean that little community sitting out in the forest that is trying to make a living off our forests and to supply to its county its roads and bridges and to its citizens its schools. We will give them a piece of the stumpage or the fee the Federal Government is paid by a private logging company to cut that tree and turn it into lumber.

Down through the years, we did just that. We financed many of our counties and many of our schools in these dependent communities largely with the stumpage fee from public timber. In some counties, it was 50 or 60 percent of the county budget. In certain counties of Oregon, in the O&C lands of Oregon, it was oftentimes the near whole school budget and oftentimes a very large chunk of the county budget.

Well, when that timber went away, for a lot of different reasons, most of them environmental, so went the money. We saw that as a crisis in our school districts, looked at it, evaluated it, established a formula, came to the Senate, and said: We have to help these school districts that do not have fee land. They do not have private property to tax. They are all public lands.

I say to the Presiding Officer, I have counties in my State that are larger than your entire State, Mr. President, and most of them are 60 or 70 percent public lands. They don't pay taxes, but they produce product. We, a long time ago, nearly 100 years ago, decided that product the Government was selling ought to pay something back to the communities. So we established this legislation, Craig-Wyden. It lived its life. It secured our schools and our communities. It allowed some self-termination. It brought together regional advisory groups, issue groups who were warring amongst each other, and it brought common cause to the public concern on our national forested lands. It was highly successful, but it expired.

In a time of deficits and financial difficulties and finding all of the needed resources we need for our Government, it became very difficult to refinance, to reauthorize this program. I have school districts that were laying off essential educators, canceling programs that would provide for the quality education of the students simply because we could not pass this legislation.

Today, we passed the legislation. Today, we reauthorized, for a period of up to 4 years, this program. It is vastly important to hundreds of school districts across the Nation. When I say the Pacific Northwest—Idaho, Oregon, and Washington—it is Montana, it is California—northern California tremendously—it is Mississippi. I suspect