

our police on the beat and our families safe. Just as important, this bill will help our schools and our colleges and our universities keep their doors open and keep the teachers in the classroom.

School board members from across my home State of Washington told me this week they are struggling to afford everything from salaries to their light bills. Several of them have already started laying off, and they are worried there is more to come. Universities in my home State are looking at hundreds of job cuts.

Education is critical to our communities, especially when the economy is bad. We need strong schools and colleges to train the workforce of the future. We need to make sure they are strong so our current workforce can get the skills and training they need to qualify for better jobs as well. We can't afford to take a step backward. So we are sending billions of critically needed dollars to schools and colleges across the country to keep the lights on, the doors open, teachers on the job, and to make sure we can meet the needs of students who have been hurt by this economic crisis.

Mr. President, let me add one other note. We aren't just helping to make up for State budget cuts. We are adding incentives that make sure schools keep working to increase standards and improve education for all of our students.

Finally, we are also investing in our greatest resource—our workers—so that our communities can stay productive and competitive in the global economy. This bill includes \$64 million for training and job research services that will help our laid-off workers in Washington State learn the skills they need so they can begin new careers and stay in the middle class. It also provides incentives to encourage businesses to hire homeless veterans and disadvantaged teenagers who are looking for jobs today.

Mr. President, this isn't just going to help our teens and our veterans find jobs, it is good for the economy too. Teenagers, in particular, as we all know, are more likely to spend the money they earn in their own communities, and some of them also contribute to their families' incomes to help pay rent or put food on the table. So this is a smart investment.

This bill we are going to consider in the next day or so is critical for my home State. In Washington alone it will create thousands of jobs and make investments that will strengthen our communities for years to come. It isn't perfect. It is not a silver bullet that will solve all of our problems, but it

certainly is the first of many steps that we are going to have to take to get our country turned around.

As President Obama has outlined, getting our economy back on track is going to take an aggressive three-pronged approach. The first step is to recover and reinvest. We also have to stabilize our financial institutions to fix the credit and banking system. We need to address the housing crisis. But I want to emphasize, we have to do all three if we are going to get this economy moving again. We are starting today with a bold recovery bill. While there are no guarantees with any of this, we can guarantee that if we do nothing, things are going to get worse. As hard as it has been to write and put this bill together, it does not even compare to the pain that is being felt by millions of Americans who are going to wake up tomorrow without a job.

They are watching us now, and they are expecting us to make good on the promises we have made—to bring change to Washington and restore confidence and security in our country. They expect us to work together. They expect us to put our differences aside and make the difficult decisions that will move our country forward. They cannot afford to wait any longer.

When I was growing up, my father was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and all of a sudden he couldn't work any longer. My family—all seven kids, my mom—had to survive on food stamps. My brothers and sisters and I were able to go to college because of Pell grants and student loans. So I want you to know I understand what a lot of our families are going through today as they struggle in this economy. That is why I am working so hard with so many others to find ways that our Government and our country can help today.

President Obama made it clear Monday night that if we do not act, the economic crisis we are in now could become an economic catastrophe. I urge my colleagues to help pass this bill out of the conference, through the Senate and House, get it signed, get Americans back to work, and get our country on the road to recovery.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10 a.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:53 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 12, 2009, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DAVID S. KRIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE J. PATRICK ROWAN, RESIGNED.

DAWN ELIZABETH JOHNSON, OF INDIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JACK LANDMAN GOLDSMITH III, RESIGNED.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JANICE M. HAMBY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) STEVEN R. EASTBURG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL A. BROWN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) THOMAS P. MEEK

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) JOSEPH F. CAMPBELL
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN C. ORZALLI

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be rear admiral

REAR ADM. (LH) TOWNSEND G. ALEXANDER
REAR ADM. (LH) DAVID H. BUSS
REAR ADM. (LH) KENDALL L. CARD
REAR ADM. (LH) NEVIN P. CARR, JR.
REAR ADM. (LH) JOHN N. CHRISTENSON
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL J. CONNOR
REAR ADM. (LH) KENNETH E. FLOYD
REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM D. FRENCH
REAR ADM. (LH) PHILIP H. GREENE
REAR ADM. (LH) BRUCE E. GROOMS
REAR ADM. (LH) EDWARD S. HEBNER
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHELLE J. HOWARD
REAR ADM. (LH) WILLIAM E. SHANNON III
REAR ADM. (LH) CHARLES E. SMITH
REAR ADM. (LH) SCOTT H. SWIFT
REAR ADM. (LH) DAVID M. THOMAS
REAR ADM. (LH) KURT W. TIDD
REAR ADM. (LH) MICHAEL P. TILLOTSON
REAR ADM. (LH) MARK A. VANCE
REAR ADM. (LH) EDWARD G. WINTERS III

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, Wednesday, February 11, 2009:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WILLIAM J. LYNN, III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.