

the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3030

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3030 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3046

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3046 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3051

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3051 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3069

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3069 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3071

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3071 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3085

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3085 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3102

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

BURRIS) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3102 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3590, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PRYOR:

S. 2863. A bill to provide that an outbreak of infectious disease or act of terrorism may be a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5122 et seq.), and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce two pieces of legislation to address gaps in our preparedness and ability to respond to widespread infectious disease outbreaks and biological attacks.

The H1N1 outbreak demonstrated to us how investments in pandemic preparedness activities, such as the creation of pandemic influenza strategies, can lessen the effects of a pandemic and improve our response. However, we have learned from the H1N1 pandemic that we still have gaps in our ability to prepare for and respond to these types of events and that state and local entities are uncertain in their abilities to respond to a more severe event.

Apart from shortcomings in government coordination and planning, there is also a glaring deficiency in an important statute that underpins our nation's response to disasters. When a natural disaster such as flooding in Arkansas occurs, local and State government resources can be quickly overextended. When that occurs a governor can request and the President can issue a major disaster declaration, which triggers the maximum amount of resources from the Federal disaster response system.

Sometimes the system works well and other times not as well, but we know for certain that without a disaster declaration and effective Federal intervention a natural disaster can have devastating effects on life, property, and our economy.

Unfortunately, due to a lack of clarification of the definition of a major disaster in the Stafford Act, there is no precedent for the President to issue a major disaster declaration when local medical resources are overwhelmed by the exponential spread of life-threatening diseases, or alternatively, a deliberate biological attack by terrorists. The bills that I am introducing today will help to address preparedness shortcomings as well as the deficiency in law.

My first bill, S. 2863, entitled The Emergency Response Act, addresses

this shortcoming in law. It will ensure the Federal Government can provide the maximum amount of support to State and local governments by allowing pandemics, acts of terrorism or other man-made disasters to be considered a major disaster under the Stafford Act. This clarification in law will permit the President to issue a major disaster declaration and allow Federal agencies to coordinate their efforts, give technical assistance, give advisory assistance, and work with local authorities and people in the private sector for events such as pandemics, biological attacks or chemical releases.

The second bill, S. 2864, entitled The Defense Against Infectious Disease Act, requires the Federal government to periodically update the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza and the National Pandemic Implementation plan with the assistance of State, Local and Tribal stakeholders in order to ensure our preparedness plans are up to date and incorporate the latest technologies, medical developments and logistical challenges.

This bill addresses concerns raised by the U.S. Government Accountability Office about both the completeness of these emergency plans and the need for them to be updated. Most Americans may not even know that these emergency plans exist, but they do understand that strong planning is the foundation for effective action. An out-of-date plan is not a plan, and after watching the spread of H1N1 and the missteps in our government's response, Americans can easily imagine what it would be like in the event of an even more serious disease outbreak, and the importance of planning for such an emergency.

This bill will also help address the situation I described previously in which a severe infectious disease outbreak can overwhelm our local medical facilities, many of which have limited resources to handle even their every day needs. To address situations which will over extend local resources, my bill also requires the Federal Government to identify alternative medical care facilities and other resources such as medical equipment, daily supplies and personnel to ensure we know what assets we have to help State and local communities.

The idea here is preparation. We should make the best of the H1N1 outbreak and learn from this experience. That is why I introduced the Emergency Response Act and the Defense Against Infectious Diseases Act. I ask that my colleagues support these bills to ensure that we are prepared for the next pandemic.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a bill summary be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2009 SUMMARY

The Emergency Response Act of 2009 is intended to improve response to infectious disease outbreaks, acts of terrorism and other disasters.

Section 2 of the legislation amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide that a pandemic, act of terrorism or other manmade disaster be considered a trigger to issue a "major disaster" declaration under the Act. Section 3 creates a working group under the auspices of the Secretary of Homeland Security to prepare recommendations for facilitating the dissemination of public health information to State fusion centers and the greater homeland security community.

DEFENSE AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACT OF 2009 SUMMARY

The Defense Against Infectious Disease Act of 2009 is intended to address gaps in preparedness in the event of a significant outbreak of an infectious disease.

Section 3 of the legislation directs that a consortium of state, local, and tribal representatives be convened to assess the adequacy of existing guidance and support in the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza and National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza Implementation plans. Section 4 directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security to identify alternative medical care facilities and resources available to locate and distribute both medical and non-medical supplies to support communities over extended by an infectious disease outbreak. Section 5 directs GAO to prepare a report describing the roles and responsibilities, capabilities and coordination of federal government assets in place across various departments for responding to infectious disease outbreaks and biological attacks.

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 2869. A bill to increase loan limits for small business concerns, to provide for low interest refinancing for small business concerns, and for other purposes.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, our Nation's small businesses have created 64 percent of all new jobs in the last 15 years, yet in the last year nearly 85 percent of the jobs lost have come from small businesses. To reverse this job loss trend and allow small businesses to be the engine of economic growth once again, we must make sure they have the access to capital they need to be successful and help grow our economy.

That is exactly why I, along with the ranking member of the Small Business Committee, OLYMPIA SNOWE of Maine, am introducing the Small Business Job Creation and Access to Capital Act of 2009. This bipartisan legislation is a result of five hearings and roundtables in the Small Business Committee this year as well as numerous meetings with small business owners. It builds off of S. 1832, the Small Business Access to Capital Act of 2009, and S. 1615, the Next Step for Main Street Credit Availability Act of 2009, legislation Senator SNOWE and I have previously introduced.

This legislation enhances the ability of the SBA to support larger loans and provide more options to small busi-

nesses. As many other sources of capital have evaporated, loans guaranteed by the SBA, with support of funding through the Recovery Act, have been able to support \$16.5 billion in loans to small businesses. Specifically, this act would: increase the loan limit on 7(a) loans from \$2 million to \$5 million; increase the loan limit on 504 loans from \$1.5 million to \$5.5 million; increase the loan limit on microloans from \$35,000 to \$50,000, as well as increase the loan limit to microloan intermediaries from \$3.5 million to \$5 million; allow the 504 loan program to refinance short-term commercial real estate debt into long-term, fixed rate loans; extend the authorization to provide 90 percent guarantees on 7(a) loans and fee elimination for borrowers on 7(a) and 504 loans through December 31, 2010; and direct the SBA to create a website where small businesses can identify lenders in their communities.

These provisions will have an immediate impact on increasing the availability of credit for small businesses and spurring job growth, with many of these provisions coming at little or no cost to the government. For example, the SBA estimates that the loan limit increases will be budget neutral, but will increase SBA lending by \$5 billion next year alone. The refinancing provisions could help save 60,000 jobs next year by allowing small businesses to refinance short-term commercial real estate debt into long-term fixed rate mortgages. To ensure that this program is budget neutral we have included a provision that would require any additional cost created by the program to be funded by the fees of the participants. Additionally, we have placed a number of safeguards on this program, such as requiring that the refinanced loan be current for at least one year, that the business owner invest a minimum of 20 percent equity and that the availability of funds be capped at \$65,000 for every job retained.

The extension of the 90 percent guarantees on 7(a) loan and the fee elimination for borrowers on traditional 504 and 7(a) loans extends critical provisions in the Recovery Act. This legislation does not include the appropriations for this funding, but does provide an extension of its authorization should appropriations be made available. It is estimated that if an additional \$479 million were to be appropriated for these programs, the SBA would be able to support \$18.5 billion in lending to small businesses. Alternately, we are starting to see the impact of this funding not being available. In the first full week of lending since the SBA had to create a waiting list for the final Recovery Act funding, 7(a) loan volume fell from \$985 million in the last week of the full funding being available, to \$71 million. This \$71 million in loan volume is lower than the average weekly volume we were experiencing before the Recovery Act was approved. We also know that as of today there are more than 700 small

businesses in the SBA waiting list approved for \$350 million in loans if we made more funding available.

It is clear that now is the time to act. Our Nation's small businesses need access to capital and this bill helps facilitate this crucial need.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, we all know the statistics are bleak. Unemployment is at 10 percent, more than 7 million Americans have lost their jobs since the start of this current recession, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses' Optimism Index, a compilation of 10 survey indicators, is at 88.3, a number the NFIB calls "stuck at recession levels." These statistics, and the stories they represent present Congress with myriad challenges including: What will we do to lower unemployment, create jobs, and help our small businesses to grow again?

The legislation Chair LANDRIEU and I are introducing today, the Small Business Job Creation and Access to Capital Act of 2009, aims to meet this challenge and takes the best ideas from Republicans and Democrats, to help put American small businesses back to work. I would especially like to thank the Chair for working with me in such an open manner in developing this bill. Creating jobs and helping small businesses should not be a partisan issue and the Chair has been extremely open to my suggestions, incorporating many of the provisions I originally introduced in the Small Business Lending Improvement Act, the 10 Steps for a Main Street Economic Recovery Act, and the Next Step for a Main Street Economic Recovery Act into this legislation.

In the past year, one cornerstone of small business recovery has been Small Business Administration, SBA, backed lending. Last year, to help address the chronic shortage of capital for small business borrowers, I introduced the 10 Steps for a Main Street Economic Recovery Act. Many of the provisions in this legislation were included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and some have been credited with helping to increase SBA loan volume 79 percent.

One provision which has been extremely popular has been fee reductions for 7(a) and 504 loans. In fact, at a round table on reauthorizing the SBA's access to capital programs the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship heard from Mr. Michael Heath, the owner of Ramunto's Brick Oven Pizza in St. Johnsbury, Vermont. Mr. Heath told the Committee that the funds he saved in SBA fee reductions helped him buy his pizzeria. The bill we are introducing today would extend the fee reductions I originally proposed in 10 Steps to December 31st, 2010. This critical step ensures that we can continue to help entrepreneurs like Mike open businesses on Main Streets across America.

Another vital provision contained in this legislation expands the number of

businesses eligible for SBA-backed loans and expands the size of those loans. I originally proposed this idea in the Small Business Lending Improvement Act which calls for an alternative size standard that would help more small businesses meet the SBA's requirements to access SBA-backed loans, and also included it in the Next Step for Main Street Credit Availability Act, which includes provisions allowing borrowers to take out larger 7(a) loans, microloans, and 504 loans. President Obama has also recognized the need for larger loan sizes and has advocated for this position as a way to create jobs and help small businesses.

Underscoring the inadequate size of SBA loans, I heard testimony earlier this year at a field hearing Senator SHAHEEN and I held in Portland, Maine from Mr. Richard Pfeffer, a local business owner, on how small SBA loan sizes have directly impacted his business. Mr. Pfeffer testified that his two businesses, Aroostook Starch and Gritty McDuff's, a restaurant and pub regarded by many as a Portland landmark, were close to bankruptcy not because of the economic downturn, but rather because of his inability to access larger SBA loans. Mr. Pfeffer is still in business today, and Gritty's is now serving its famous Christmas Ale, but his inability to access capital still looms and it is costing him the opportunity to expand his business and hire more workers. The increased loan limits in this bill would help Mr. Pfeffer and others like him to put the American economy back on track.

This bill also includes another provision I proposed in March and introduced in my Next Steps legislation that would allow SBA borrowers to shop and compare SBA loan rates online, offering borrowers the opportunity to make an informed choice and save time and money.

Finally, the Small Business Job Creation and Access to Capital Act of 2009 would allow borrowers of 504 loans to refinance their debt. This provision will give borrowers critical working capital that they can use to grow and expand their businesses.

These targeted reforms will help put Americans back to work, ease the capital crunch for small businesses, and help bring SBA lending into the future. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation to improve America's economy and increase small business lending.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3115. Mr. CASEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the first-time homebuyers credit in the case of members of the Armed Forces and certain other Federal employees, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3116. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amend-

ment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3117. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3118. Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. BAYH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3119. Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. HAGAN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. BURRIS, Mr. KAUFMAN, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. KIRK, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3120. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3121. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3122. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3123. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3124. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3125. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3126. Mr. CRAPO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3127. Mr. MERKLEY (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3128. Mr. KOHL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3129. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to

amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3130. Mr. JOHANNIS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3131. Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. DURBIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3132. Mrs. MCCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3133. Mr. WICKER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3134. Mr. BURR (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and Mr. WICKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3135. Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. FRANKEN, and Mr. BURRIS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3136. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3137. Mr. BEGICH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3138. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. HATCH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3139. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3140. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3141. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3142. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 2786 proposed by Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. DODD, and Mr. HARKIN) to the bill H.R. 3590, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3143. Mrs. HUTCHISON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to