

offices in lieu of totally shuttering a beloved post office in the heart of town.

There are so many options the Postal Service could use. For example, moving the post office into a retail store, providing hours part time—say at 7 to 9 in the morning, when people are going to work, or 5 to 7 in the evening when they are coming home. We need to be creative. In recent months we have seen the Postal Service announce a number of Draconian measures, including the closing of hundreds of processing plants and implementing disastrous service standards changes, including a proposal to do away with overnight delivery, one of the real advantages the Postal Service has.

Our bill takes a better approach that helps the Postal Service rightsize its excess capacity while still maintaining what is one of its most valuable assets: its ability to deliver mail overnight to many areas.

Let me give another example. The Postal Service has proposed closing one of two processing plants in the State of Maine, the one that is located in Hampden, ME, in the central eastern part of our State. That means for northern Maine communities that are sending mail between those communities, the letter would have to take a roundtrip of more than 600 miles to be processed and returned. That makes no sense at all. It clearly will lead to a marked slowness in delivery, a deterioration in service, and, I would argue, probably to more costs. That plant could be downsized, but it should never be closed.

There are so many options that need to be pursued by the Postal Service in order to prevent service from deteriorating and delivery times from lengthening because, once again, that will drive more mail out of the system, and that is the last thing the Postal Service needs.

I would say that many postal employees have pointed out to me, as has the inspector general, that there are excessive bureaucratic costs at the Postal Service. For example, the Postal Service—even though it is insisting on closing all these facilities—already has over 67 million square feet of excess property that it has yet to dispose of. The bill requires the Postal Service to devise a plan to close and consolidate these administrative offices around the country and to start implementing that plan within the year.

We have also encouraged collocation of postal facilities with other Federal agencies, an idea that Senator CARPER had to minimize excess capacity. We also authorized the Postal Service to convert delivery from front door to the curb where it is practical and cost effective. The Postal Service inspector general has estimated this could save as much as \$4.5 billion a year.

Another controversial issue that we tackle in this bill is the Postmaster General's proposal to eliminate Saturday delivery. I have said repeatedly

that I believe abandoning Saturday delivery will once again drive mail out of the system and do more harm than good. Our compromise prohibits eliminating Saturday delivery for at least 2 years so that cost-cutting reforms can be implemented. If at that point to achieve solvency the Postal Service needs to go to 5-day delivery, it can do so if it proves it has done everything else to cut its excessive costs. Again, reducing service should be the last resort, not the first option. Our hope is that the cost-cutting tools we provide the Postal Service in this bill will allow this service reduction to be avoided.

There is much more in this bill which we will discuss as the debate goes on. Today is just the first step in what I know is going to be a long journey. But the point is we must pass a postal reform bill. The House also has a bill that awaits floor consideration, and more compromises will have to be made along the way. But we cannot forget the urgency of this task.

I ask my colleagues to work with us during the upcoming floor debate, and I urge their support for final passage. The fact is it is up to us to preserve this vital American institution, the U.S. Postal Service.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:45 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. WEBB).

21ST CENTURY POSTAL SERVICE ACT MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I know the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN, is on his way to the floor to make a statement. Pending that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

RACIAL PROFILING

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I take this time to inform my colleagues of a hearing that took place this morning before the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights of the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator DURBIN. Senator DURBIN has been a leader in this body on making sure we have a

committee that focuses on the issues of human rights. Today's hearing on racial profiling, ending racial profiling in America, was the first hearing we have had in Congress on racial profiling since the attack on our country on September 11. I congratulate Senator DURBIN for holding this hearing. I thought the hearing was very informative as to a problem we have in America on the use of racial profiling.

I know the Nation has been focused on the tragedy that took place in Sanford, FL, in which 17-year-old Travon Martin was killed, a clearly avoidable death, by Mr. Zimmerman. We first and foremost want to make sure justice prevails in this case. I know there is a case pending in Florida. We are all going to be watching that very carefully. There is a Federal investigation underway by the Department of Justice to look into circumstances concerning Travon Martin's death, to see what role race played in regard to that tragedy, not only as it related to Travon Martin's death but also as to the investigation that ensued.

A few weeks ago, I spoke about this issue at the Center for Urban Families in Baltimore. That is a group that is interested in urban family life. We came together shortly after Travon Martin's tragic death to talk about what had happened.

I was very much moved by so many people who came forward at that meeting and explained how they had been victims of racial profiling. A young woman talked about the time she went to a basketball game with her father and her father was pulled over and stopped by police for no apparent reason other than the color of his skin and how that impacted this girl, seeing her father held, unable to go to the basketball game. These types of victimization occur too frequently in our community, where people are picked out solely because of their race, their religion, their ethnic background.

We have a problem in this country, and we need to do something about that. The question that needs to be answered in regard to Travon Martin is was he initially pursued because of the color of his skin. Would Mr. Zimmerman have done the same if it was a White child rather than an African American?

In October of 2011, I introduced S. 1670, the End Racial Profiling Act. I am proud to have many colleagues as cosponsors, including Senator BLUMENTHAL, Senator BOXER, Senator DURBIN, Senator GILLIBRAND, Senator JOHN KERRY, Senator LAUTENBERG, Senator LEVIN, Senator MENENDEZ, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator HARRY REID, Senator STABENOW, and Senator MARK UDALL. I thank my cosponsors for joining me in this legislation.

This legislation would make it clear that racial profiling will not be allowed in this country. Racial profiling is un-American. It is against the values of our Nation. It is contrary to the 14th amendment of the Constitution, which