

rate in half, to 3.4 percent, will help only a small group of borrowers for the loans they take out for 1 year of their education, 4 years from now. Then the benefit disappears.

A quick calculation of the real benefit borrowers will receive shows that for a cost of \$6 billion to taxpayers, individual borrowers will see savings of only \$6 a month. I would much rather see the \$6 billion go to help low-income students through a Pell grant increase than to a hollow sound bite, and that is the approach the Senate took, to increase the Pell grant rather than the reduction in the distant future of a small percentage in the interest rate.

Finally, as an accountant and a member of the Budget Committee, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that we are debating a conference report on reconciliation which is a process designed to reduce the Federal deficit, not to create new mandatory programs and increase entitlement spending. I am disappointed to say the net savings for deficit reduction in this conference report is only \$750 million. I would admit that is the requirement we were given by the budget to produce—\$750 million. The last time we did a budget reconciliation we put half the money that was saved by canceling some of the subsidies to the corporations to budget deficit reduction.

I do wish to remind my colleagues that a few weeks ago we considered reconciliation and higher education reauthorization together. This is a key point. The Senate did it consecutively.

On a Thursday, we did the reconciliation bill. The next voting day we had was a Monday, and on Monday we passed the higher education reauthorization.

This is a bill that is long overdue. We have done short extensions eight times, and we recognize that we passed them together in the Senate with strong bipartisan support. In fact, the reauthorization bill vote was 95 to 0. So we not only achieved savings, but we ensured the quality and effectiveness of our Federal Student Aid Programs. Therefore, support for this conference report is limited by the fact that we are not also considering the larger higher education reauthorization package, although I am expecting that we will get some very solid agreement from the House folks to begin consideration of that, I hope yet this month, so it can be completed early and we can have both parts of the package.

Tomorrow I will go into a little bit more on what is in that other package that completes what we are doing in reconciliation. In the reconciliation we are eliminating some of the subsidies, and then we are reallocating that money. That money will go to help students. But the bulk of the help actually comes in the reauthorization package. It is ever so essential that we do that.

I think the Senate would have been agreeable to put the two bills together

and get them both finished at the same time, but it is not possible because the House has not finished action on the Higher Ed reauthorization.

Tomorrow I will go into some more detail on what it is that is missing from the package by just doing the reconciliation part of the package. I will be encouraging people to vote for the reconciliation package and then the reauthorization package when we are able to get that together.

I will be encouraging the House, in every way possible, to make sure they get that reauthorization part of the package done, and I have some relative assurance that they are going to do it soon. I would like some more solid assurance they are going to do it soon.

With that, I will conclude my remarks for tonight and look forward to the bipartisan discussion we will have tomorrow. I want to thank the Senator from Massachusetts for the great work he and his staff did on this package. It is not often in this body that people listen and then try and find the solution. I would say they and my staff have worked together well and got us here. You never get a perfect package around here. This is one that will help a lot of people.

I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 8:55 A.M. TOMORROW

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 8:55 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:17 p.m., adjourned until Friday, September 7, 2007, at 8:55 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### THE JUDICIARY

STANLEY THOMAS ANDERSON, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, VICE JAMES D. TODD, RETIRING.

E. DUNCAN GETCHELL, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE H. EMORY WIDENER, JR., RETIRED.

STEVE A. MATTHEWS, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT, VICE WILLIAM W. WILKINS, RETIRED.

JOHN A. MENDEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, VICE DAVID F. LEVI, RESIGNED.

##### FOREIGN SERVICE

THE FOLLOWING-NAMED PERSONS OF THE AGENCIES INDICATED FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS OF THE CLASSES STATED.

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS THREE, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CEDRA DANIELLE EATON, OF MARYLAND

FOR APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER OF CLASS FOUR, CONSULAR OFFICER AND SECRETARY IN THE DIPLOMATIC SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

S. NAUSHER M. ALI, OF CALIFORNIA  
CHRISTOPHER CHARLES ASHE, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
KIMBERLY K. ATKINSON, OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEIDRA DI ANNE AVENDASORA, OF MINNESOTA

TIFFANY M. BARTISH, OF ILLINOIS  
CHRISTOPHER GRAYDON BEARD, OF FLORIDA  
JENNIFER L. BECKER, OF KANSAS  
NANCY R. BIASI, OF OREGON  
SHERYL J. BISTRANSKY, OF VIRGINIA  
MICHAEL A. BRADECAMP, OF VIRGINIA  
CHERYL R. BRUNER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA  
MARK COLBOURNE CARLSON, OF WASHINGTON  
LANDRY JOSEPH CARR, OF LOUISIANA  
MICHAEL ALBERT CHUNG, OF WASHINGTON  
SARA M. COBB, OF FLORIDA  
KATHLEEN MARIE COREY, OF WASHINGTON  
JOHN C. CORRAO, OF INDIANA  
SONATA N. COULTER, OF WASHINGTON  
JOANNE HELD CUMMINGS, OF TEXAS  
PAUL MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, OF CONNECTICUT  
CHRISTOPHER M. DEUTSCH, OF VIRGINIA  
JANET E. DEUTSCH, OF ILLINOIS  
BEVERLI J. DEWALT, OF WASHINGTON  
SARAH A. DUFFY, OF ILLINOIS  
DAVID CLIFFORD EDGINTON, OF IOWA  
ELLEN BETH EISEMAN, OF NEW YORK  
JILL FOSTER, OF CALIFORNIA  
ERIC GEELAN, OF NEW YORK  
KATHLEEN D. GIBLISCO, OF CALIFORNIA  
JOHN H. GIMBEL IV, OF NEVADA  
CARLA A. GONNEVILLE, OF CALIFORNIA  
CHRISTOPHER R. GREEN, OF TEXAS  
JOHN R. GROCH, OF TEXAS  
H. REBECCA GRUTZ, OF TEXAS  
TRAVER GUDIE, OF FLORIDA  
RICHARD F. HANRAHAN, JR., OF ILLINOIS  
CASH A. HERBOLICH, OF ARIZONA  
ANNY CHI-JIN HO, OF VIRGINIA  
ROBERT F. HOMMOWUN, OF CALIFORNIA  
AMY J. HOOD, OF VIRGINIA  
JESSICA MARIE FRANZ HUARACAYO, OF CALIFORNIA  
DORIAN MARTADO, OF FLORIDA  
MOLLIE JAX JACKSON, OF OREGON  
THEODORE EVAN JASIK, OF NEW YORK  
ALMA MUSANOVIC JOHNSON, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TIFFNEY J. JOHNSON, OF TEXAS  
WENDY ANNETTE KAHLER, OF VIRGINIA  
DEBORAH J. KANAREK, OF CALIFORNIA  
MARY VIRGINIA KANE, OF MARYLAND  
WENDY A. KENNEDY, OF WASHINGTON  
JASON B. KHILE, OF ILLINOIS  
JULIE KIM-JOHNSON, OF WASHINGTON  
EMILY L. KING, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIAN P. KLEIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
RICHARD W. LA ROCHE, JR., OF CALIFORNIA  
GUY M. LAWSON, OF TEXAS  
PAULA I. L'ECUYER, OF VIRGINIA  
PAUL A. LOH, OF NEW YORK  
LEON C. LOWDER III, OF NEW YORK  
LAURA DENELLE LUCAS, OF IDAHO  
MARY ELIZABETH MADDEN, OF OREGON  
GUY MARGALITH, OF NEW YORK  
BERENICE MARISCAL, OF TEXAS  
ROBERT M. MARKS, OF FLORIDA  
HAGEN DAVIS MARONEY, OF NEW YORK  
MELISSA E. MARTINEZ, OF NEW MEXICO  
PARTHA MAZUMDAR, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
LISSA MEI-LIN MCATEE, OF WASHINGTON  
P. CHRISTOPHER MCCABE, OF COLORADO  
NANCY HILLERY MCCARTHY, OF TEXAS  
CATHERINE E. MCGEARY, OF FLORIDA  
AUD-FRANCES MCKERNAN, OF CALIFORNIA  
CRISTINA MARIE MARKO MEANEY, OF ARIZONA  
ANN MECEDA, OF CALIFORNIA  
SARA M. MERCADO, OF CALIFORNIA  
KRISTIAN G. MOORE, OF COLORADO  
JOHN K. MOYER, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
ESHEL WILLIAM MURAD, OF VIRGINIA  
KEVIN T. MURAKAMI, OF VIRGINIA  
MEGAN THANA MYERS, OF MINNESOTA  
JEREMY NATHAN, OF ILLINOIS  
JENIFER LYNN NEIDHART DE ORTIZ, OF FLORIDA  
THU M. NGUYEN, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIANA L. OLSEN, OF WASHINGTON  
DOUGLAS S. O'NEILL, OF FLORIDA  
SWATI MANSUKH PATEL, OF ALABAMA  
CONEY PATTERSON, OF FLORIDA  
TIMOTHY EUGENE PELTIER, OF VIRGINIA  
STEVEN PERRY, OF VIRGINIA  
BRIAN R. PETERSON, OF WASHINGTON  
CHRISTOPHER R. REYNOLDS, OF NEW JERSEY  
CHRISTINE RIEHL, OF MARYLAND  
MICHAEL R. ROBERTS, OF NEW JERSEY  
RICHARD W. ROESING III, OF PENNSYLVANIA  
MEREDITH LEIGH RUBIN, OF VIRGINIA  
JOSEPH H. RUNYON, OF FLORIDA  
TRINA D. SAHA, OF CALIFORNIA  
ANNE LEE SESHADRI, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
CHARLES H. SEWALL, OF FLORIDA  
PREETI VIKAS SHAH, OF MICHIGAN  
KIM SHAW, OF CALIFORNIA  
PATRICK ISAMU SMELLER, OF MARYLAND  
JEFFREY BRIAN SMITH, OF TEXAS  
STEVEN T. SMITH, OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
JOHN THOMAS SPEAKS III, OF TEXAS  
DEBRA A. STEIGERWALT, OF VIRGINIA  
SCOTT ADAM STERNBERG, OF FLORIDA  
STEPHEN BRUCE STEWART, OF CALIFORNIA  
ERINN C. STOTT, OF TEXAS  
ANDREA V. STRANO, OF NEW YORK  
PAUL M. STRONSKI, OF NEW YORK  
JOSEPH A. STRZALKO, OF MICHIGAN  
RACHEL SUNDEN, OF TEXAS  
KATHLEEN S. SZPILA, OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEBRA TAYLOR, OF WASHINGTON  
VICTORIA JEAN TAYLOR, OF MISSOURI