

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) would vote "aye".

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

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 356 Leg.]

YEAS—83

Akaka	Durbin	Mikulski
Alexander	Ensign	Murkowski
Allard	Enzi	Murray
Allen	Feingold	Nelson (FL)
Baucus	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Bayh	Frist	Obama
Bennett	Grassley	Pryor
Bingaman	Harkin	Reed
Brownback	Hatch	Reid
Bunning	Hutchison	Roberts
Burns	Inouye	Rockefeller
Byrd	Jeffords	Salazar
Carper	Johnson	Sarbanes
Chafee	Kennedy	Schumer
Clinton	Kerry	Sessions
Cochran	Kohl	Shelby
Coleman	Kyl	Smith
Collins	Landrieu	Snowe
Conrad	Lautenberg	Specter
Cornyn	Leahy	Stabenow
Corzine	Levin	Stevens
Craig	Lieberman	Talent
Crapo	Lincoln	Thomas
Dayton	Lott	Thune
DeWine	Lugar	Voivovich
Dole	Martinez	Warner
Domenici	McCain	Wyden
Dorgan	McConnell	

NAYS—8

Bond	DeMint	Inhofe
Burr	Gregg	Sununu
Coburn	Hagel	

NOT VOTING—9

Biden	Chambliss	Isakson
Boxer	Dodd	Santorum
Cantwell	Graham	Vitter

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. STEVENS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there is 2 minutes equally divided on the Reed motion to instruct conferees. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I offer this motion along with my colleague, Senator COLLINS from Maine. I will shortly yield to her the last 30 seconds. I also offer it on behalf of myself and other Senators, including Senator LAUTENBERG.

The reality is very clear to so many poor families in this country. Energy prices are rising, temperatures are falling, and they are going to be in a very vulnerable and very disadvantaged position. This amendment would add \$2.9 billion in additional funding for LIHEAP. It would bring it up to the authorized level of \$5.1 billion.

We have considered this proposal in various procedural means four times. A

majority of the Senate has always supported it. I hope it continues to do so.

I yield my remaining time to Senator COLLINS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this motion to instruct the conferees to add \$2.9 billion for the LIHEAP program. The time is growing late. In northern Maine, the high temperature earlier this week—the high temperature—was 12 degrees. Let's act now to avert a real crisis for low-income families across this country.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today for one very simple reason—to ask for the support of my colleagues for the Reed-Collins-Kennedy-Snowe motion to instruct the conferees to S. 1932, to add \$2.92 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistant Program, or LIHEAP. This funding, along with the expected \$2.18 billion in fiscal year 2006 appropriations, will confirm the commitment we made just this past July and bring LIHEAP up to the level of \$5.1 billion we authorized in the 2005 Energy bill.

In the Nation's colder States such as Maine, the days are relentlessly marching toward winter, the clock is ticking as the thermometer edges ever downward and it would be unconscionable for Congress to adjourn for the year without providing critical, additional assistance for LIHEAP at a time when home heating oil prices have been predicted to increase by up to 44 percent this coming winter.

There should be no mistake—this is an emergency and a crisis that is no longer an impending crisis as I have been saying for months—it is now here. I feel very strongly that it would be an abrogation of our responsibility to stand by and allow more and more of our elderly on fixed incomes and low-income people, including children, to suffer because of a lack of heat.

This past week, it was reported to one of my Maine offices that two elderly people—who have already used up their entire LIHEAP allotment for a winter that has not yet officially arrived—were admitted to the hospital with hypothermia. In one of the households, the residence was so cold the water in the toilet bowl was frozen. It has been said that a society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. What a failing grade we would get for LIHEAP. The fact is, countless Americans don't have room in their budget for such a surge in home heating prices—but surely, in looking at our national priorities, we can find room in our budget to help Americans stay warm this winter.

It does not take a crystal ball to predict the dire consequences when home heating oil in Maine has risen to \$2.59 per gallon, up 66 cents from a year ago, kerosene prices average \$2.72 a gallon, 52 cents higher than this time last year, and propane is at \$2.20 per gallon, 17 cents higher than last year. Some

projections have a gallon of heating oil reaching \$3.00 later in the winter.

So understandably, we are hearing the mounting concern "how will I pay for home heating oil when it's already almost 30 percent more than last year, and I struggled to make ends meet then?" "How will I afford to pay half again as much for natural gas?" People need to know now that they can count on us—U.S. Congress—for assistance, not the most disruptive country leader in the Western Hemisphere who comes bearing gifts of discounted oil to our communities and States. This country should take care of its own.

Home heating oil in my State is a necessity of life—so much so that 73 percent of households in a recent survey reported they would cut back on, and even go without, other necessities such as food, prescription drugs, and mortgage and rent payments. Churches, food pantries, and local service organizations are all hearing the cry and sensing the growing need.

Because of the supply disruptions caused by the Gulf hurricanes at a time when prices were already spiraling up, prices have been driven even higher and are directly affecting low-income Mainers and how they will be able to pay for their home heating oil, propane and kerosene this winter. A recent Wall Street Journal quoted Jo-Ann Choate, who heads up Maine's LIHEAP program. Ms. Choate said, "This year we've got a very good chance of running out." Eighty-four percent of the applicants for the LIHEAP program in the State use oil heat. Over 46,000 applied for and received State LIHEAP funds last winter. Each household received \$480, which covered the cost of 275 gallons of heating oil.

The problem this winter is that the same \$480 will buy only 172 gallons, which a household will use up in the first 3 to 4 weeks in Maine. What will these people do to stay warm for the four or five months left of winter? The water pipes will freeze and then break, damaging homes. People will start using their stoves to get heat. The Mortgage Bankers Association expects that the steep energy costs could increase the number of missed payments and lost homes beginning later this year. My State is anticipating at least 48,000 applicants this winter, so there will be less money distributed to each household unless we can obtain higher funding for the LIHEAP program.

Ms. Choate says that Maine plans to focus on the elderly, disabled, and families with small children, and is studying how to move others to heated shelters. This is why our efforts are so very important. And it isn't just Maine. It is happening in all of the Nation's cold weather States. Quite simply, without increased funding, we are forcing the managers of State LIHEAP programs to make a Solomon's choice as to who gets served.

The facts are that LIHEAP is projected to help 5 million households nationwide this winter. But that is only