NAFTA, promising they would create millions of jobs and enrich communities. Instead, too many of these agreements have cost millions of jobs and devastated communities. It is not just the worker who suffers. It is the family, people down the street, as the valuation of houses contributes to delinquency and foreclosures. It means fewer police, fewer teachers, and fewer firefighters, as communities are devastated from layoffs and workers losing their jobs. In the cities, workers lose their jobs too. Yet the Bush administration and proponents of deals with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea want more of the same. They want the current system to keep going, to be expanded, despite evidence that the NAFTA model and the CAFTA model have not been working for Mexican workers, Central American workers, American workers, or small businesses in those countries and is not working for small manufacturers.

The number of workers filing for unemployment benefits jumped last week to its highest level since late August. Last week, 2,000 more Ohioans were seeking unemployment benefits, thousands more in Michigan, in Minnesota, in Indiana, North Carolina, all over the country—hardly the sign of a good economy, hardly the time for another trade agreement.

History will be on the side of those who want a different trade policy. The Founders gave Congress the responsibility to set the terms of trade policy. To vote up or down on a flawed agreement is in no one's best interest. It is not smart policy or politics. We need to begin by evaluating agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, as Senator DORGAN proposed this week. We need to pause. Let's say no more trade agreements for a while until we fix our trade policy and learn what those agreements and our trade commitments have accomplished for workers. If I am wrong and they are working for workers, communities, consumers, and our small business owners, then let's proceed. But let's stop and look, figure this out.

We need a new model for trade agreements that requires negotiators to not just ensure better labor and environmental rules are enforced—we made some progress in the Peru trade agreement on that, and that is a small step but not enough—but also raises safety standards, doesn't allow backdoor challenges to public interest laws, doesn't give corporations the power, as NAFTA did for the first time ever in a trade agreement, to sue foreign governments, including foreign corporations to sue our Government to weaken our environmental laws, to weaken our food safety laws, to weaken our worker protection laws, to undercut our ''Buy American'' laws. That is when we end up doing stupid things like building a wall between Mexico and the United States and using Chinese steel.

Finally, we need to reward corporations. We have introduced the Patriot Corporations Act. Those corporations that play by the rules, hire Americans, provide health care, provide a pension, and take care of their communities should be rewarded with tax advantages instead of penalizing those companies and rewarding those companies that go offshore.

Ultimately, our commitment is to protect our country. That means to protect our children from foreign products that have lead. It means to protect workers, our small businesses, and our communities. That is how we provide opportunity to build a thriving middle class. That is why it is time to take a breath, stop. Before we move forward in Peru and Panama, before we move forward in Colombia and South America, we need to examine how this trade policy is working.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

BIDDING ON EBAY LETTER

Mr. REID. Madam President, earlier this month, I came to the floor to discuss some comments made by Rush Limbaugh.

Following my remarks, more than 40 of my Senate colleagues and I cosigned a letter to the chairman of Clear Channel, Mark Mays, telling him that we wanted him to confer with Rush Limbaugh regarding the statements he made. I have since spoken to Mark Mays about this. Mark Mays, in fact, called me regarding this letter.

This week, Rush Limbaugh put the original copy of that letter up for auction on eBay. We did not have time or we could have gotten every Democratic Senator to sign that letter. But he put the letter up for auction on eBay and, I think very constructively, left the proceeds of that to go to the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation.

What is the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation? It provides scholarship assistance to children of marines and Federal law enforcement personnel whose parent dies in the line of duty, as well as health care assistance for disabled children of fallen troops.

What could be a more worthwhile cause? I think it is really good that this money on eBay is going to be raised for this purpose.

When I spoke to Mark Mays, I think he and I thought this probably would not raise much money—a letter written by Democratic Senators complaining about something.

This morning, the bid is more than $2 million. We have watched it during the week. It keeps going up and up and up, and there is only a little bit of time left. But it is certainly going to be more than $2 million. Never did we think this letter would bring money of this nature; and for the cause, it is extremely good.

Now, everyone knows that Rush Limbaugh and I do not agree on everything in life, and maybe that is kind of an understatement. But without qualification, Mark Mays, the CEO of the network that has Rush Limbaugh on it, and Rush Limbaugh, should know that this letter they are auctioning is going to be something that raises money for a worthwhile cause.

I do not know what we could do more importantly to help ensure children of our fallen soldiers and police officers who have fallen in the line of duty have the opportunity to have a good education. Think about this: More than $2 million. This is going to really help. That is, again, an understatement.

There is only a little bit of time left, so I would ask those who are wanting to do more—they can go to eBay and search for ''Harry Reid Letter'' and it will come up. I would encourage anyone who is interested, with the means to do so, to consider bidding on this letter and contributing to this worthwhile cause.

I strongly believe when we can put our differences aside—even HARRY REID and Rush Limbaugh—we should do that and try to accomplish good things for the American people. This does that—more than $2 million for a letter, signed by this Senator and my friends.

AGENDA

Mr. REID. I have indicated, Madam President, we have a lot of work to do. The chairman of the Judiciary Committee and I have stated on a number of occasions that on controversial judicial nominations we are not going to move on those until the minority tells us that is what they want to do. One of those nominations is Judge Southwick. That matter was reported out of committee sometime ago, and both Senator LEAHY and I have said that when the Republicans tell us they want to move to that nomination, we would do that. So sometime next week I am more than likely going to move to that matter. So I want everyone to know that, in fact, is the case.

I also, Madam President, have indicated that one of our priorities is to do an energy bill this year. I had a meeting yesterday with Democratic chairs and other interested people, including Senator CANTWELL and Senator DORGAN, to find out how we can move forward. We realize we can move forward. We have a number of issues that are important. The issues are somewhat limited. One is what are we going to do on CAFE, raising the fuel efficiency of vehicles? What are we going to do about a renewable portfolio standard? And what are we going to do about the tax aspect of this that will do a number of important things, not the least of which is give the great entrepreneurs

in our country the incentives to invest in alternative fuel—sun, wind, geothermal, biomass? We need this to be done on a multiple-year basis. So those are three important things we need to do.

I have had a number of conversations with my Republican colleagues. Senator DOMENICI and Senator LOTT—there are others with whom I have spoken—but just in recent days I have spoken to them. I spoke this morning with Leader PELOSI, the Speaker of the House. She wants to go to conference on this issue. One Republican Senator said: I understand you don't want to go to conference. The Speaker wants to go to conference. I want to go to conference. We would like to be able to do a bill, and we are going to do our very best to do that.

We are going to include the Republicans on anything we do. We know we cannot do a bill unless we include the Republicans in it, and we are going to do that. We are going to do our utmost to come up with a strong bill, one that is in keeping with the needs of this country.

Madam President, everyone is occupied on that side of the aisle, but I am going to, in the near future, when we have a Republican who can come to the floor, ask consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 340, which is H.R. 3221, which is the House Energy bill. And I will move that we go to conference on it. I will come out this afternoon, as soon as we can, and offer this unanimous consent request.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 3374, AS MODIFIED, TO AMENDMENT NO. 3325

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I send a modification to the desk of amendment No. 3374 and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN], for Ms. COLLINS, for herself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. SNOWE, proposes an amendment numbered 3374, as modified, to amendment No. 3325.

The amendment, as modified, is as follows:

On page 64, line 5, insert before the period the following: '': *Provided further*, That $2,000,000 of the amounts appropriated under this heading shall be made available to carry out dental workforce programs under section 340G of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256g)''.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 3353, 3333, 3354, AND 3374, AS MODIFIED, TO AMENDMENT NO. 3325 EN BLOC

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I have four amendments that have been cleared on both sides, and I ask unanimous consent to call them up and have them considered en bloc. The amendments are amendment No. 3353, amendment No. 3333, amendment No. 3354, and amendment No. 3374, for which the modification was sent to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the four amendments will be considered en bloc and agreed to en bloc.

The amendments were agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 3353

(Purpose: To provide funding for the ADAM Act)

At the appropriate place in title II, insert the following:

SEC. ___. Of the funds made available in this Act for subtitle B of title IV of the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-505), $200,000 shall be used to carry out section 312(c)(6) of the Public Health Service Act.

AMENDMENT NO. 3354

(Purpose: To provide for a Government Accountability Office report concerning State health care reform initiatives)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. (a) Not later than November 30, 2008, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report concerning State health care reform initiatives.

(b) The report required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of State efforts to reexamine health care delivery and health insurance systems and to expand the access of residents to health insurance and health care services, including the following:

(A) An overview of State approaches to reexamining health care delivery and insurance.

(B) A description of whether and to what extent State health care initiatives have resulted in improved access to health care and insurance.

(C) A description of the extent to which public and private cooperation has occurred in State health care initiatives.

(D) A description of the outcomes of State insurance coverage mandates.

(E) A description of the effects of increased health care costs on State fiscal choices.

(F) A description of the effects of Federal law and funding on State health care initiatives and fiscal choices.

(G) A description of outcomes of State efforts to increase health care quality and control costs.

(2) Recommendations regarding the potential role of Congress in supporting State-based reform efforts, including the following:

(A) Enacting changes in Federal law that would facilitate State-based health reform and expansion efforts.

(B) Creating new or realigning existing Federal funding mechanisms to support State-based reform and expansion efforts.

(C) Expanding existing Federal health insurance programs and increasing other sources of Federal health care funding to support State-based health reform and expansion efforts.

The amendment (No. 3333) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3374), as modified, was agreed to.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I don't think there is any further consideration to be had on these amendments. Are the amendments agreed to en bloc?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

We are waiting for a Senator to come to the floor to speak on an amendment. I know of no other speakers yet today. Again, I would remind people that we will be here Monday, and we will be voting—I don't know if the time has been determined yet but probably around 5:30 or somewhere around there. We will probably be in late voting on Monday. We will have a whole lot of amendments on Monday night. The agreement was struck yesterday that we would finish this bill by noon on Tuesday and to get there, with all the amendments we have pending, there will probably be a number of votes on Monday night.

So with that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3399

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, we have another amendment that has been agreed to on both sides, so I call up amendment No. 3399 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Amendment No. 3399 is pending.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I call up that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It was previously proposed.

Is there further debate on the amendment?

If not, without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 3399) was agreed to

Mr. HARKIN. I thank the Presiding Officer. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 3381

(Purpose: To provide for the continuing review of unauthorized, Federal programs and agencies and to establish a bipartisan commission for the purpose of improving oversight and eliminating wasteful Government spending)

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I have conferred with the bill managers.