

--Modified Collins-Murkowski-Ayotte Plan to Re-open the Government--

1. Fund the government at an annual rate of \$986 billion for six months.
2. Delay for two years the Medical Device Tax. Delays Obamacare's 2.3 percent excise tax on the sales of medical equipment such as pacemakers and defibrillators. During budget resolution votes earlier this year, a Hatch-Klobuchar amendment supporting repeal passed the Senate by a 79-20 margin. To offset the cost of delaying the medical device tax, the plan would adjust how much companies contribute to pensions. (This offset was contained in the highway bill in 2012. That bill allowed pension plans to estimate and fund pension liabilities using a range of interest rates based on a 25-year moving average. Under the smoothing formula, employers would contribute less in the short and medium term, and more in the longer term. These contributions are tax-deductible, so shrinking them would raise employers' income tax payments - and thus overall federal tax revenues - in the years immediately ahead.)
3. Provide Federal Agencies with Greater Flexibility to Fund Priorities. The proposal includes language to provide federal agencies with flexibility to mitigate the impact of automatic spending cuts imposed by sequestration. The proposal would also assure appropriate Congressional oversight of these decisions by requiring agencies to submit their spending proposals to the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction before implementing these decisions. This is based on a Collins-Udall (D-CO) bill.
4. Extend Debt Ceiling (until January 31, 2014).
5. Income Verification. Some provisions to require the Obama administration to have an income verification in place before doling out Obamacare subsidies. The House passed the No Subsidies Without Verification Act, H.R. 2775, in a 235-191 vote that saw support from five Democrats. In July, the administration issued rules stating that it would not immediately verify eligibility in every instance where a consumer's income does not coincide with what is on file with the IRS and Social Security Administration. The administration backtracked in August, saying that since the July regulation was issued, it has "ascertained that there are sufficient resources to ask every individual in this circumstance for such documentation with no exceptions." You are a cosponsor of Senator Coburn's "Requiring E-VERIFI Act", which would prohibit the ACA's health insurance tax subsidies from being issued until HHS certifies that there is a program to "successfully and consistently" verify income and coverage requirements.
6. Direct an immediate conference on the budget with instructions for conferees to report by January 15, 2014.