



# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *108<sup>th</sup>* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2004

*Senate*

## Class Action Fairness Act of 2004

Mr. CARPER. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. GRASSLEY. Yes. I yielded the floor, but if you want me to hold the floor——

Mr. CARPER. I would appreciate it. If the Senator will yield, I would like to make a comment.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Yes.

Mr. CARPER. I want to thank the chairman, as the prime sponsor of this bill, for his willingness to entertain changes and ideas from our side of the aisle, from Democrats who had what we thought were ideas to improve this legislation. I think as the bill has gone through its introduction, its markup and debate in the Judiciary Committee, been reported out of the Judiciary Committee—the bill was sort of rereported out of the Judiciary Committee with some further changes, there was the adoption of the changes and incorporation of the changes that were negotiated with a number of us, including Senators SCHUMER, DODD, LANDRIEU, KOHL, and myself—I think one of the reasons why we are here tonight with a bill we can go forward with, that is going to get pretty good bipartisan support, has been your willingness to not only listen to some

other ideas but to incorporate them into this bill.

As I listened to the Senator go through the bill and talk about it, particularly to talk about the changes that have been made in it, I was struck how far we have come in the course of the last year or two. I want, while you are still here, to express my thanks for the way you approached this subject and the open minded way you have enabled us to move forward.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, if I could say this before I yield the floor, and I am going to yield the floor right away, first of all, I appreciate the statement by the Senator from Delaware. He may have missed it, but sometime in my remarks tonight I made some commentary about his efforts to help work a compromise and bring up issues that were very important to get settled in order to move to finality.

Also, Mr. President, I want to tell you as well as other Members of this body, this bill is where it is because of the urgency Senator Carper has put on this legislation, to get it passed, because he knows of the need. He also understands the need of bipartisanship.

I hope I have given him proper credit in this way. So many times as we

Senators do, we go to breakfasts or lunches to speak to groups that are interested in legislation, and they are always asking us about this bill or that bill. More often than not, particularly when I am talking to small business groups, I am often asked about when are we going to get class action reform. I say, under certain circumstances we will get it. Sometimes people compliment me because I was the prime sponsor of this legislation. But I say at every one of these meetings, they need to thank Senator Carper whenever they see him, because no person in the Senate is trying move this bill along and do it in a bipartisan way, no one more than Senator Carper.

I can say to Senator Carper, I thank him very much for what he has done and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TALENT). Who seeks recognition?

Mr. CARPER. I do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. CARPER. I thank Senator Grassley for what he said. I understand Senator Grassley may need to do some wrap-up here. I am not sure. If he does, I will be happy to yield.