

# The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act



The Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act, was created in honor of our 35th president's kid brother. Whose life was dedicated to doing public service. He died of brain cancer in 2009.



**This bill was also known  
as the Generations  
Invigorating Volunteerism  
and Education or GIVE.**

The bill was sponsored by  
Carolyn McCarthy along with 37  
other representatives



# What is this bill all about?



Well, this bill allowed for a large increase in the amount of funding for Americorps and other volunteer services, the creation of programs for senior and veteran programs, expansion from 75,000 to 250,000 gov. funded volunteers, and increase education and summer program funding for students.



The bill was introduced on March 9, 2009 by a rep. (Carolyn McCarthy) and is broken down into amendments. There were 52 of them for this bill. That means they made 52 documented changes!



Next Stop, the house of representatives.  
At this point you only need a majority of the  
votes in the house to pass the bill.  
And on March 18, 2009 that's exactly what  
happened.



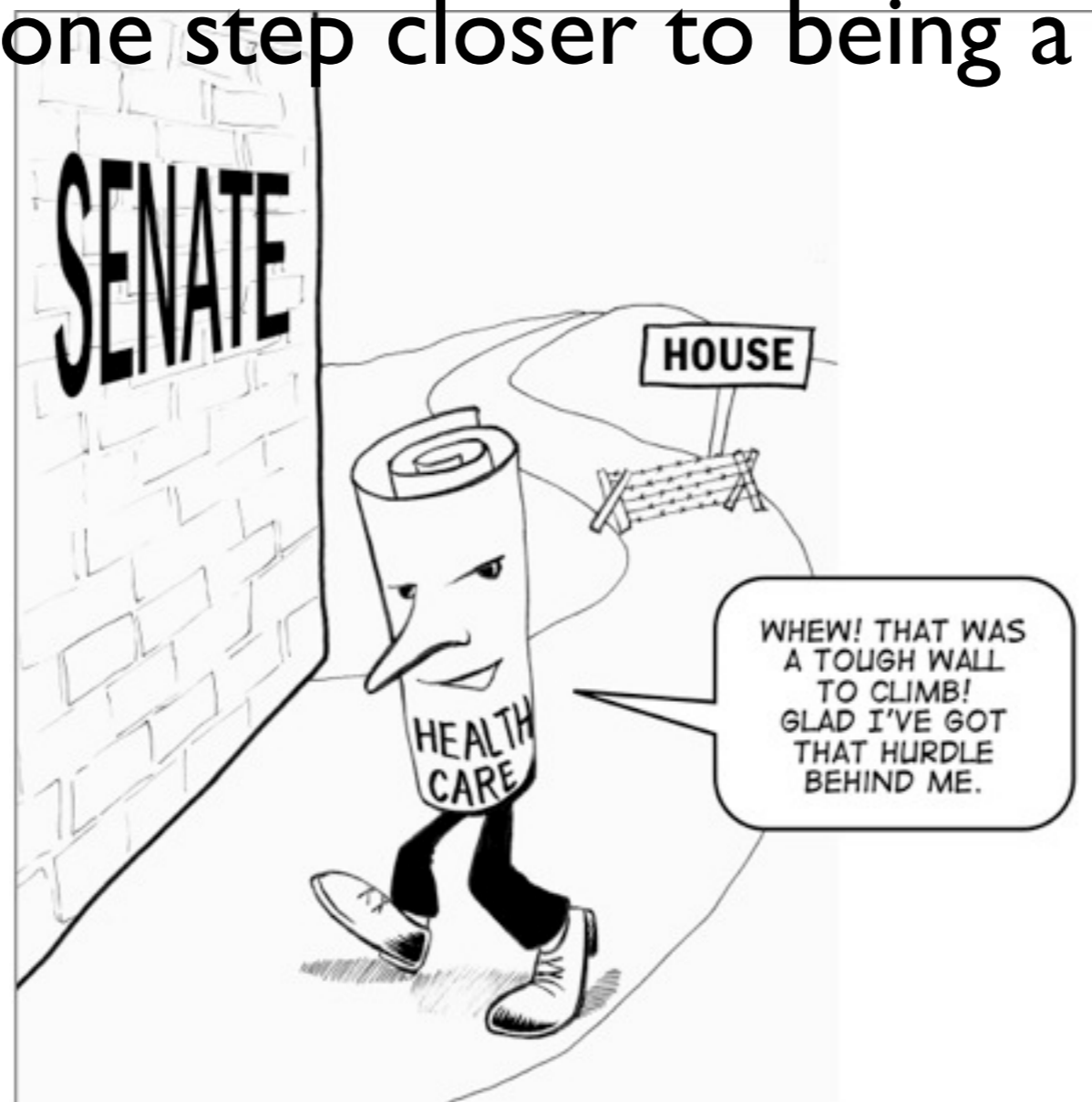


There were 321 votes for the  
passing of the GIVE Act  
for a total of 74% of the house in  
favor of passing this bill.

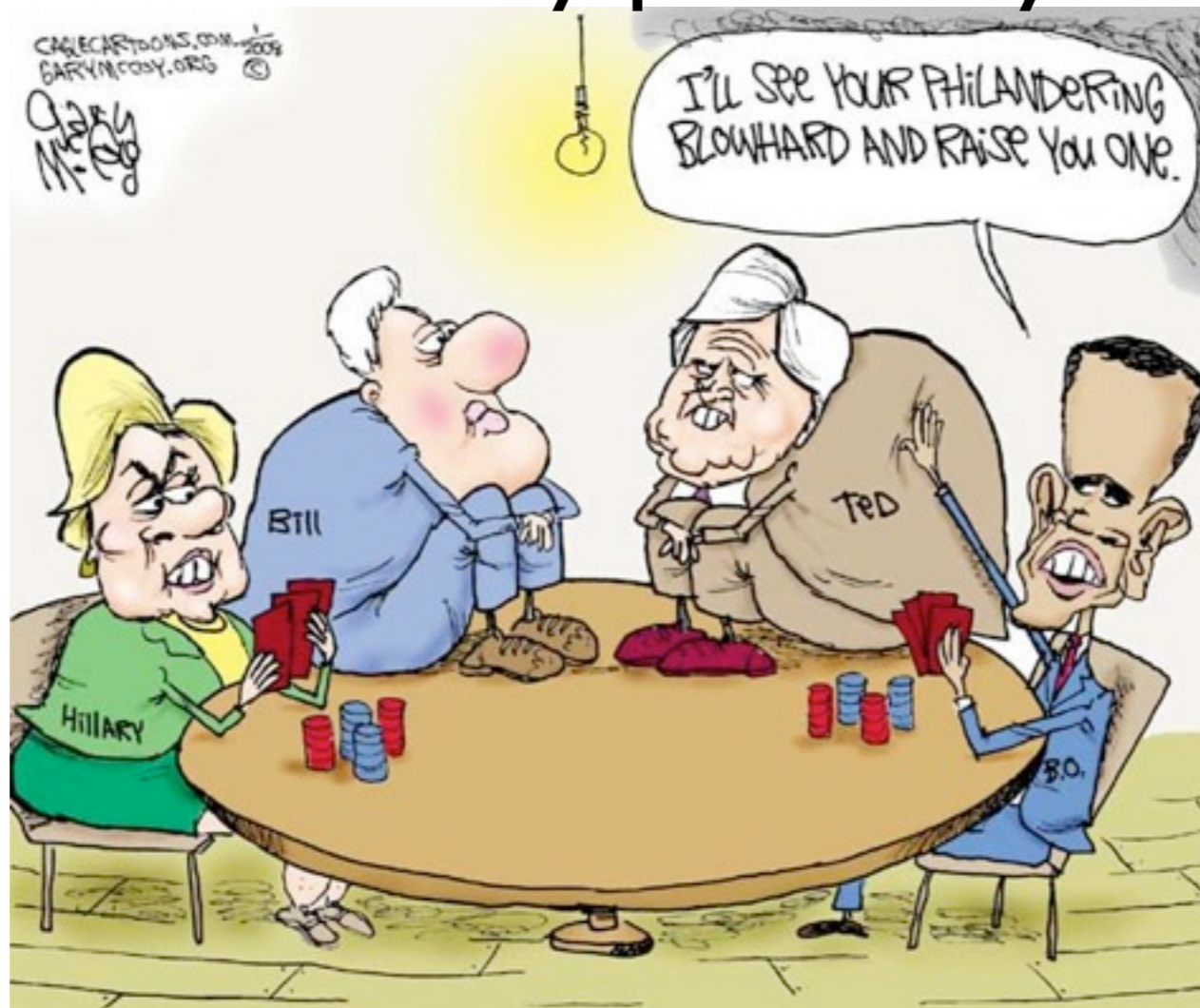
After being approved by the House of Representatives where do you think the bill went next?



That's right to the Senate and just like the House, you need for most of the people in this branch to agree on the bill in order for it to be one step closer to being a law.



On March 26, 2009 the bill was passed through the senate 79 out of 115 of them voted aye. 21 of them were republican. This is largest number of bipartisanship and it's because they new Edward Kennedy personally.



And finally we reach  
the big stop!  
Yes that's right Mr.  
President himself.



On April 21, 2009, less than a month after it was passed by the senate, The president signed the bill making it an official law.



While the journey of the GIVE Act was fairly easy, the process that a bill must go through to become a law is not always as simple as the story previously presented.

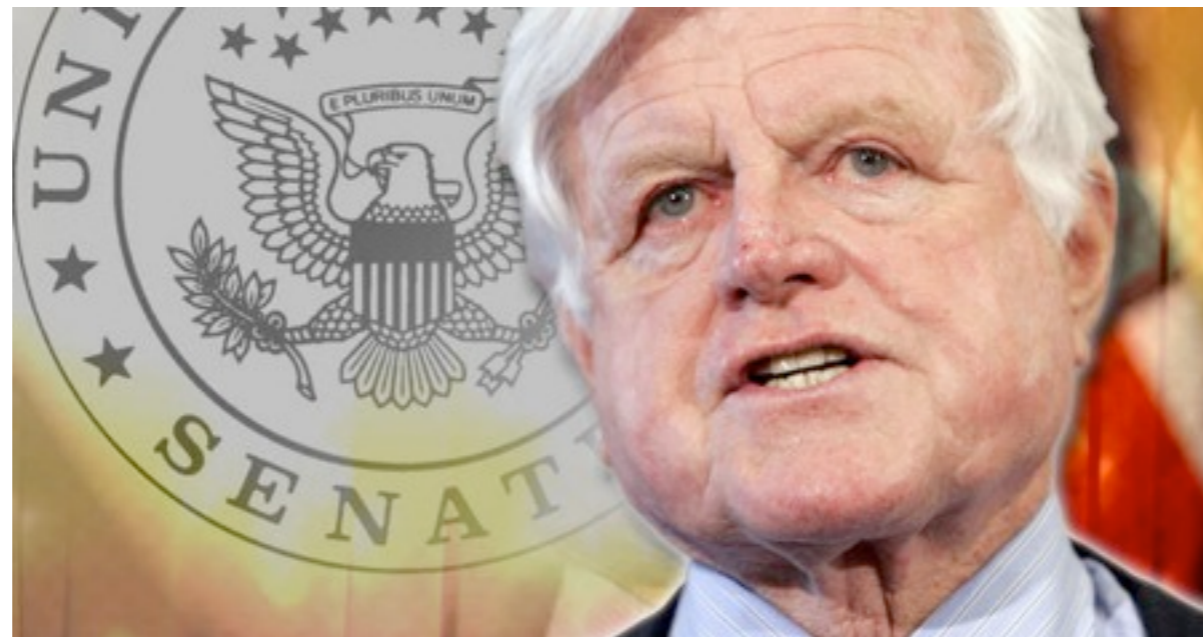
There are a number of ways that the process can be made difficult.

For example, if it is a 50/50 vote then the proposal loses. Or **the VP can break the tie** for the senate.

Another example of a bad break could be the president vetoing the bill in which case you need **2/3** of votes from both the house and the senate to override him. This is nearly an impossible task because there isn't an even distribution of the parties in the houses.



My speculation is that since there were people in the houses who knew Edward Kennedy personally, it made it easier for them to come together for this cause.



## Citations:

<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h1388/show>

-Smith, V. (2010, October 29). *Lifton not right about nyjob losses*. Retrieved from <http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20101029/VIEWPOINTS03/10290311/1129/Lifton-not-right-about-N.Y.-job-losses>

-Topanga Messenger, . (2010). *Day of service open house at meals on wheels* . Retrieved from <http://www.topangamessenger.com/Articles.asp?SectionID=1&ArticleID=4084>