

CRANSTON, RI  
 Robin Grady, Bethany Lavigne, Kathryn Mullican, Jessica Sanchez.  
 CUMBERLAND, RI  
 Suzanne Gustafson, Elizabeth Rivard.  
 EAST GREENWICH, RI  
 Elissa Carter.  
 EXETER, RI  
 Laura Moriarty.  
 KENYON, RI  
 Tracy Williams.  
 LINCOLN, RI  
 Johanna Simpson.  
 LITTLE COMPTON, RI  
 Ruth Gordon.  
 MIDDLETOWN, RI  
 Meredith Benvenuto, Meghan Franklin, Elizabeth Mack, Heather Markman, Casey Serls.  
 NARRAGANSETT, RI  
 Lucia Marotta.  
 NEWPORT, RI  
 Mary Ann Compton, Amanda Grosvenor, Jennifer Sawyer.  
 NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI  
 Kelly Blinkhorn.  
 NORTH PROVIDENCE, RI  
 Nicole Aiello, Beth Bader, Bonnie Bryden, Sarah Cardin, Jenifer DeGrace, Laura Ann DiTommaso, Jean Ann Douglas, Valeria Ferrara, Sabra Integlia, Alison Kole, Carissa Leal, Candida Linares, Karen Linares, Summer Lockett, Pamela Ricci, Dawn Shurtleff, Stephanie Swartz.  
 NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI  
 Maureen McPherson, Laura Peach, Sarah Peach, Lisa Rowey, Heather Senecal.  
 PAWTUCKET, RI  
 Briana Fishbein, Nicole Gendron, Alyssa Nunes.  
 PORTSMOUTH, RI  
 Jennifer Lake, Carrie Miller, Elizabeth Nunes.  
 PROVIDENCE, RI  
 Arielle Ascrizzi, Mika Clark, Angela Fayerweather, Rita McCartney, Stacy Montvilo.  
 SAUNDERSTOWN, RI  
 Karena Burnham.  
 WARREN, RI  
 April Lau, Nicole Peck, Jody Valente.  
 WARWICK, RI  
 Carolyn Beagan, Sara Berman, Amanda Cadden, Becky Csizmesia, Justine Evans, Kristen Giza, Bethany Linden, Amanda Marcoccio, Kerri McLaughlin, Lauren Ramieri, Catherine Rousseau, Leah Wallick.  
 WEST GREENWICH, RI  
 Rachel Fontaine.  
 WEST KINGSTON, RI  
 Audra Criscione.  
 WEST WARWICK, RI  
 Tracyjo Jorgensen, Jennifer Malaby, Kerrin Massey.  
 WESTERLY, RI  
 Jamie Hanson, Karen McGrath, Heather Norman.  
 WYOMING, RI  
 Kelly Marie Henry.

BOY SCOUT 1996 EAGLE AWARD RECIPIENTS  
 BARRINGTON, RI

John Eugene McCann IV, Curtis G. Barton, Thayer Harris, Bretton R. McDonough, Benjamin A. Rasmussen, William Prescott Read,

Christopher J. Ryan, Jeffrey J. Previdi, Brian Wood, Casey M. O'Donnell, Nicholas C. Seadale, Brian C. Keeney, N. Ross Kiely.  
 BLACKSTONE, MA  
 Kevin M. Boyko, Timothy P. Doyle.  
 BRISTOL, RI  
 Michael David Blank, Raymond B. Murray.  
 BURRIVILLE, RI  
 Kenneth DeBlois.  
 CENTRAL FALLS, RI  
 Daniel Joseph Malenfant.  
 COVENTRY, RI  
 Michael B. Sullivan, Jeffrey A. Taylor.  
 CRANSTON, RI  
 Zaven R. Norigian, Benjamin Mark Terry, Michael Frank Ferraro, Seth Benjamin Kahn, Michael P. Gallo, Michael W. Libby, Kevin Michael Thurber, Joshua A. Terry, David O. Ober, Matthew Brian Beltrami.  
 CUMBERLAND, RI  
 Sven John Myeberg, Adam Ryan Dau, Albert R. Greene III.  
 EAST GREENWICH, RI  
 William R. Sequino, J. David C. M. Whittingham, Derrick James Mong, Derek L. Flock, Matthew V. Cawley, Matthew Lundsten, Matthew Wolcott, Mark A. Fondi.  
 FOSTER, RI  
 Adam C. Copp, Nickolas A. Charrette.  
 GLOCESTER, RI  
 Scott Adam Carpenter, Steven Bruce Nelson.  
 HOPKINTON, RI  
 James M. Lord.  
 JOHNSTON, RI  
 Robert F. Amato, Daniel C. Ullucci, Donald J. Bressette, William J. Giblin, Jr., Steven E. Piccotte, Jr.  
 KINGSTON, RI  
 Dana Clark Seaton.  
 MANVILLE, RI  
 Christopher Scott Horton.  
 MIDDLETOWN, RI  
 Michael A. Incze.  
 NEWPORT, RI  
 Jesse Silvia, Michael A. Thomas, Jr., Robert A. Zeuge, Doug M. Nelson, Roland E. Zeuge, John Kenneth Mossey.  
 NORTH KINGSTOWN, RI  
 Andrew J. Vanasse, Donald T. Braman, Nicholas J. Veasey.  
 NORTH SCITUATE, RI  
 Mark Ullucci.  
 NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI  
 Joshua S. Mowry, Timothy M. Reilly, David R. Katz.  
 PAWTUCKET, RI  
 Jonathan A. Bray, Jupesi Gonzalez, Jessie Alan Dyer.  
 PORTSMOUTH, RI  
 Jason C. Weida, Michael David Andrews, Samuel Magrath IV, Scott R. Obara, Douglas M. Doherty, Kenneth E. Hoffman, Jr., Christopher Cardoza, Jason J. Reynolds.  
 PROVIDENCE, RI  
 Andrew P. Magyar, Peter N. Wood, Jr., Brendan R. Foley-Marsello, Jeremy S. Harkey, Matthew T. Whitman, Michael Edward Winiarski, Nicholas Q. Emlan, Damon G. Cotter, Luke C. Doyle, William David Garrahan, Richard James Marcoux, Andrew M. Good.  
 RIVERSIDE, RI  
 Michael W. Caine, Michael L. Robertson, Kevin J. Smith, Matthew Michael Hodges, Eric Olson.

SAUNDERSTOWN, RI  
 Joshua J. Gabriel.  
 SCITUATE, RI  
 Scott D. Bear, Jared A. Fasteson, Wayne F. Smith.  
 SEEKONK, MA  
 Matthew James Schupp, Zebulon P. Fox, Andrew L. Libby.  
 WARWICK, RI  
 Jon Thomas Selby, Marc A. Berman, Chris C. Schreib, Joseph Michael Bizon, Michael J. Narowicz, Joseph M. O'Connor, Michael A. Milner, Jason G. Naylor, Steven M. Sullivan.  
 WEST GREENWICH, RI  
 Edward C. Morgan, Geoffrey Albro.  
 WEST WARWICK, RI  
 Steven R. Bentley, John Richard Ferri, Joshua Joseph Roch, Paul Ambrose Lague, Brendon M. Warner, Jonathan Santini, Eric R. Bosworth, Dana P. Graves, Jacob James Cahalan, Charles Gardner.  
 WESTERLY, RI  
 Peter E. Cabral.●

SIXTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the re-independence of the Republic of Georgia.

Georgia has a rich cultural heritage spanning over 2,000 years, and recent history provides a remarkable story in the struggle against communism. First annexed by Russia in 1801, Georgia experienced a brief glimpse of independence in 1918 when Georgia relinquished its ancient monarchy for a democratically elected government. In 1921, however, the iron curtain descended on this small, yet proud country, and over the next 70 years suffered terribly under the heavy hand of Soviet communism and its centrally planned economy. Through it all, the Georgian people never gave up their hope or desire for freedom and independence.

On April 9, 1989, violence erupted in the Georgian capitol of Tbilisi, as Soviet troops swarmed the city and fell on 10,000 peaceful citizens demonstrating for independence. During the ensuing violence, more than 200 people were injured and 19 killed. Some, including women and children, were tragically beaten to death with shovels. This event marked the beginning of the end of Soviet domination. Exactly 2 years later, on April 9, 1991, Georgia officially declared its independence, a day which is remembered as the anniversary on which Georgia's long fight for freedom was again realized.

Since then, under the leadership of President Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgia has made remarkable strides toward a free market economy and democratic rule of law. A constitution founded on democratic principles and values has been adopted, and free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections were held. A new generation of young, energetic democratic leaders has emerged, led by 34-year-old Zurab Zhvania, Chairman of the Parliament,

who I recently met with. On the economic front, Georgia's new currency, the lari, has remained stable since its introduction in 1995. The International Monetary Fund and the U.S. Department of State have praised Georgia's economic initiatives and their significant progress in developing a free-market economy. Several U.S. corporations have already established a presence in Georgia, spurring jobs and economic growth in both nations.

Mr. President, I encourage everyone to note this historic day, and congratulate Georgia on its extraordinary progress toward democracy and free-market principles.●

#### RAISING ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND LOWERING COLLEGE COSTS AT WEST MESA HIGH SCHOOL, ALBUQUERQUE, NM

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to honor the achievements of the students and educators at West Mesa High School in Albuquerque, NM, and especially its growing Advanced Placement [AP] program.

On Tuesday, April 1, I had the opportunity to visit West Mesa and speak with students and teachers participating in the school's AP program. Several State legislators and business leaders joined me in a short but invaluable group discussion and class visit.

Perhaps most impressive was the visit to one of Mr. Tomas Fernandez' AP English classes, where students explained in their own words why AP courses are so important. In this class, the students don't ask for less home work or "dumbed-down" classes; they are demanding more challenging classes and higher academic expectations for all students. While AP classes are new to many, and set a very high standard, the students had found that they could succeed.

Principal Milton Baca and a growing number of West Mesa teachers are responding to this demand by providing more and more challenging classes in the school's growing AP program. For example, West Mesa recently added an AP Calculus course in addition to its AP English course, and five teachers attended AP teacher training institutes last summer. More teachers are planning to attend AP training courses this summer so they can start an AP science course in the next school year. I applaud all of these efforts.

For college-bound students, taking AP courses and passing AP exams can translate into valuable college credits for advanced high school work. For those AP students who decide not to go to college, they and their prospective employers can be confident that they are better prepared academically and will have an advantage as they compete for jobs and enter the work force.

Because AP programs are so beneficial to both work- and college-bound students, I have been working on efforts to expand these programs, as part of the solution to our State's clear

need for immediate, measurable education reform. To show the importance of strong academic skills to employers, I am working with several businesses in New Mexico to develop employment incentives for students who take and pass AP exams, especially in the core academic areas of English, math, and science. In addition, I am gratified that the State legislature increased funding for the AP New Mexico program to \$200,000 next year, as I requested in testimony before the relevant committees.

Despite this important progress, West Mesa High School and New Mexico have a long way to go to more fully utilize the AP program as a way to challenge high school students, raise academic achievement to higher levels, and improve our long-term economic productivity. In New Mexico, roughly 5,000 students took AP classes in 1996—up 22 percent from 2 years ago—with a 20-percent increase in AP tests taken, but this is still below the national average. New Mexico's per-capita participation rate remains 20 percent lower than Arizona's and 40 percent below the national average.

We are facing an uphill struggle to improve our schools and students' academic performance in several areas, including making better use of the AP program. But the strides that West Mesa High School is making are compelling evidence that we can make real and lasting positive change in our schools. I congratulate West Mesa's students and teachers on their accomplishments so far, wish them well on further advancement, and offer my assistance as they continue to improve.●

#### UNIVERSAL SERVICE IMPLEMENTATION

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I have read the report in the Wall Street Journal that Federal Communications Commission Chairman Reed E. Hundt proposes to implement only a portion of the new universal service fund rules by the statutory deadline of May 8. Specifically, he suggests delaying the adoption of rules assuring reasonable rates for telephone subscribers in rural and high-cost areas, although he would proceed to implement a new \$3 billion yearly fund to wire schools, libraries, and health care facilities through an unspecified tax on telephone company revenues.

Last January I wrote to Chairman Hundt about his apparent desire to implement these provisions prior to implementing the remainder of the universal service provisions of the statute. At that time, I stated that sound implementation of the Telecommunications Act requires that the Commission resolve all the related issues involved in universal service carefully and contemporaneously.

Apparently Chairman Hundt has not changed his view, Mr. President, but neither have I.

Implementing universal service funding in separate stages would be incom-

patible with the law. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 states clearly and unambiguously that the FCC "shall initiate a single proceeding to implement the recommendations from the Joint Board . . . and shall complete such proceeding" by May 8, 1997.

It would be consistent with this unequivocal statutory requirement for the FCC to adopt specific new rules on May 8 and have them take effect in the future. It would also be consistent with the statute for the FCC to adopt general outlines of new rules on May 8, and fill in specific details by subsequent order. The FCC can, and in my judgment should, avail itself of these courses of action if it finds, for whatever reason, that it cannot adopt final rules on all aspects of universal service on May 8. But one thing the FCC cannot do by law is pick and choose some statutory requirements to put into effect on May 8, and delay the rest till later.

Let me be clear. I can understand the possible problem Chairman Hundt faces: too much proposed subsidy, and not enough revenue to handle it without raising rates for telephone service. I emphatically am not suggesting that he simply proceed to adopt final universal service fund rules and thereby raise telephone rates on May 8. But if, after studying universal service as extensively as it has, the FCC has concluded that it cannot implement the universal service provisions of the statute without increasing telephone rates or incurring similar unacceptable outcomes, it must defer from implementing any universal service rules until it can satisfactorily demonstrate to both the Congress and the public that any rate increases that would result are inevitable in fact and appropriate in amount.

Unless and until the FCC can do that, the Commission should take no final action on universal service. To try and evade the issue by implementing the parts of universal service that may be politically desirable while dodging the rest because it appears politically unpalatable would be a dereliction of the Commission's duty under law.●

#### HONORING LARA GREEN SPECTOR

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to honor Lara Green Spector, the Tobacco-Free Kids East Regional Youth Advocate of the Year. Lara is a ninth grader from Montclair High School in New Jersey who truly exemplifies the old adage that one person can make a difference.

Lara was the motivating force behind Montclair's recently passed ordinance banning cigarette vending machines and self-service displays. Who knows how many Montclair teenagers and children may not take up smoking because cigarettes are now more difficult to obtain. And local public officials, school advisers and residents all agree that this ordinance would never have