

the Spartans with quality minutes off the bench all year, and particularly in the championship game, where they held their own against the vaunted Florida bench.

David Thomas and Adam Ballinger, provided valuable contributions throughout the season and the tournament, both on and off the court, often providing the Spartans with the lift they needed. And Steve Cherry, Mat Ishbia, and Brandon Smith demonstrated the total devotion of the Spartans players to the team concept both on the court and in practice.

Finally, a special mention must go to Head Coach Tom Izzo, who hails from Iron Mountain, Michigan, and is in only his fifth year coaching the team. Coach Izzo has proven himself to be one of the finest coaches in men's college basketball. He and his staff instilled into the Spartans a will to win second to none, exemplified by their cutthroat defense, which suffocated many potent offenses throughout the season, and particularly in the second half N.C.A.A. Tournament games.

Coach Izzo has served as an inspiration to his team, and to young men throughout Michigan and the nation who share the spirit and excitement of the sport of basketball.

I acknowledge his and his family's contribution. In fact, I had the pleasure of attending high school with his wife, Lupe.

Mr. President, I had the opportunity to attend the championship game, and I want to compliment everyone associated with the Spartans for the courage and class they exhibited throughout the game, and during the entire season. Everyone in Michigan—from Copper Harbor to Monroe, to Niles—should be proud of what this team has accomplished.

In closing, let me say, as a graduate of Michigan State University and as one who attended Michigan State at a time when our basketball program was not as successful as it has been since Magic Johnson's arrival in 1978 and in the time since, how proud I am of my alma mater for this great victory for the Spartans green and white.

I yield the floor to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I join Senator ABRAHAM in sponsoring this resolution which commends and recognizes the extraordinary successes of the Michigan State Spartans.

As we speak today, about 150,000 people are lining the parade route in Lansing, MI, after a rally at our capitol, to welcome home and cheer on our heroes.

College athletics is at best about more than winning. It is about hard work and determination and relying on teammates to overcome adversity. The Michigan State Spartans surely displayed all of those characteristics in their season-long drive to become the national champions.

Coming off a loss to Duke in the Final Four last year, many had picked

MSU as this year's favorite to win the NCAA Tournament. However, when star point guard and former Big Ten Player of the Year Mateen Cleaves was sidelined with a stress fracture on his right foot early in the season, the hopes of a championship season seemed lost. But the Spartans never gave up. The rest of the team pulled together to play the first 13 games of the season without their emotional leader.

When Mateen returned to the basketball team, MSU went on to win their third straight Big Ten Championship, clinching the top seed in the Midwest region of the NCAA Tournament.

During the NCAA tournament the Spartans faced many challenges, winning come from behind victories against Utah, Syracuse, and Iowa State to reach the Final Four for the second straight year. After beating conference rival Wisconsin in the semifinals, the stage was set for Michigan State to take home their first National Championship title since Magic Johnson led the Spartans to victory over Indiana State in 1979.

Monday night the young Florida Gators played a great game, but their depth and energy didn't quite match the experience and determination of the Spartans. Mateen Cleaves led the team in scoring until five minutes into the second half when he was sent to the locker room with a sprained ankle. While many teams would have crumbled under the pressure of playing for the National Championship without their star player and floor leader, the Spartans came together like they have done all season long and their lead over the Gators grew. When the injured Cleaves came back onto the floor, limping up and down the court, his presence provided the emotional spark that the team needed to win by a final score of 89 to 76.

In today's sports world where, where many talented young players leave college early or don't go at all, and coaches skip from team to team it is refreshing to see the kind of dedication that these student athletes and their coach have shown. "The Flintstones"—seniors Mateen Cleaves and Morris Peterson, and junior Charlie Bell, have become heroes and role models to those from their hometown of Flint. Senior A.J. Granger's often unsung heroics have proved how much these Spartans value the success of the team over individual accolades. The full roster of that extraordinary team is as follows: Al Anagonye, Jason Andreas, Adam Ballinger, Charlie Bell, Mike Chappell, Steve Cherry, Mateen Cleaves, A.J. Granger, Lorenzo Guess, Andre Hutson, Matt Ishbia, Morris Peterson, Jason Richardson, Brandon Smith, David Thomas, and Adam Wolfe.

Coach Tom Izzo has spent his entire career in Michigan, including 12 years as an assistant under former Michigan State head coach, Jud Heathcote. They have set a wonderful example of what can happen when you are willing to combine patience, hard work, and dedication.

Those names belong in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. They are all being honored here for their teamwork, which produced a national champion.

Coach Tom Izzo has spent his entire career in Michigan, including 12 years as an assistant under former Michigan State head coach, Jud Heathcote. He and his assistants have set an extraordinary example of what can happen when you are willing to combine patience, hard work, and dedication. Indeed, the whole Michigan State family deserves credit because they truly represent, on and off the court, what we frequently talk about—family values. They believe in family, both at home and on the court. They act as a family and they play as a family. We owe them our congratulations and our thanks for that as well.

There is going to be a long list of bands in that parade going down Michigan Avenue in a few minutes. Many of the high school teams from around the State will be there. They have been invited to march. One of the groups, though, that I want to make special mention of in closing is the band from Tom Izzo's hometown of Iron Mountain. Tom Izzo is an "Upper," as we say; he comes from the UP. His heart has always been close to Michigan and Michigan State. He is originally from the UP. It is a special treat for him and for all of us that one of the bands marching down Michigan Avenue today will be indeed from his hometown of Iron Mountain.

We also pay tribute to the Florida Gators. It was an extraordinary game. They deserve an awful lot of credit for what they did to bring themselves to the finals. I am sure that in the future their heroics will again prove that they will go far in these NCAA tournaments. Hopefully, they will again get to the finals and, hopefully, again lose to a Michigan team.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the two Senators from Connecticut be permitted to speak as in morning business and that their comments be counted toward the remaining time on the budget.

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

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, this will take about 5 minutes.

CONGRATULATING THE WOMEN UCONN HUSKIES FOR THEIR NCAA NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Connecticut. I appreciate the indulgence of the chairman while I digress for a couple of minutes.

My colleagues will understand that there is a sense of collective pride in the Nutmeg State among the Connecticut delegation over the success on Sunday night that brought the NCAA

basketball championship home to Connecticut for the second time in 6 years. The women did a magnificent job. With all due respect to our colleagues from Tennessee, the Lady Vols and Pat Summit, the wonderful coach there, there has been a wonderful tradition and competition between these two schools. They have met twice this year—a split decision. The University of Connecticut won its game against Tennessee in Tennessee, and only a few weeks later Tennessee brought its team to Connecticut, and they won on our home court. So the final game was sort of a rubber match between these two very fine programs, wonderfully coached and well-staffed teams, with magnificent players.

Senator LIEBERMAN and I feel a sense of pride, obviously, as our colleagues would appreciate, that the women's basketball team at UConn capped a dominating 36-1 season in which they began the season ranked No. 1, and they ran through the entire season ranked No. 1, and now finished ranked No. 1 and national champs, with a decisive victory of 71-52.

All of the years have been memorable for a team which has now recorded 14 consecutive winning seasons and 12 consecutive NCAA tournament appearances, including the landmark 1994-95 championship season in which the UConn women never lost a game, and this season in which they only lost one—a loss avenged on Sunday when they beat Tennessee in the final tournament game, having lost to them in our home court.

This second national title only seals the legacy of the UConn women's basketball program as one of the best programs of the 1990s. So it is appropriate that they mark the turn of the millennium with this victory. For Shea Ralph, the tireless team leader, and the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player, the triumph was even sweeter. She returned to play this year after spending last season on the sidelines with her second knee injury in 2 years. Her dedication reflects the spirit of this entire team. All who watched the tenacity and determination with which she played will certainly agree with those statements.

What stands out about these women is their ability to accomplish just as much off the court. Ten players since the 91-92 season have made the school's dean's list, and UConn boasts a 100-percent graduation rate for recruited student athletes. Every recruited freshman who has played for Head Coach Geno Auriemma at Connecticut and completed her eligibility has obtained her undergraduate degree.

Since Coach Auriemma arrived on campus in Storrs in 1985, when the team had seen only one winning season, he has compiled 393 wins and the third highest winning percentage among active Division I coaches: nine Big East regular season titles, eight Big East tournament championships, and two NCAA national champion-

ships. Coach Auriemma has again been named National Coach of the Year—for the third time in his career—and has been honored three times, as well, as the Big East Conference Coach of the Year.

Mr. President, as a fan myself, along with my friend and colleague, Senator LIEBERMAN, we want to take a moment to voice the importance of this team to the State of Connecticut. The Connecticut Huskies have ranked No. 1 in the Nation in home attendance for the past 6 years, attracting close to 1 million fans at UConn's Gampel Pavilion. This kind of support is exciting, especially in a State surrounded with talented pro sports teams, but with very few of its own.

This team has reinforced the importance of women's athletics at the collegiate level—including issues such as title IX—and whether it is Connecticut or Tennessee or another worthy team, I am pleased to see such a high level of attention and excitement nationwide for women's college athletics, and particularly for basketball.

It was in 1995 when we last congratulated a national champion UConn women's team. The future of graduating players that year in the sport they grew up playing was limited to involvement in training or coaching at collegiate and high school levels. Today, we should all be proud of the fact that these champions may go on to follow their "hoop dreams," if you will, and continue to inspire the dreams of others by playing basketball professionally.

I congratulate everybody involved in this great victory on a memorable tournament and season, including All-Americans Svetlana Abrosimova and Shea Ralph, as well as Sue Bird, Asjha Jones, Tamika Williams, Kelly Schumacher, Swin Cash, Marci Czel, Stacy Hansmeyer, and many other talented players; Coach Ariemma, Associate Head Coach Chris Dailey, and Assistant Coaches Tonya Cardoza and Janelle Elliott.

Again, we look forward to a wonderful season next year. We welcome them to Washington, and invite our colleagues to meet them when they come here.

At the appropriate time, Senator LIEBERMAN and I will submit a resolution regarding this great success the other night.

I yield to my colleague from Connecticut.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I thank my friend and colleague.

I am delighted in the midst of this debate on the budget, which sometimes lacks exhilaration, to interject, along with our friends from Michigan, a note of euphoria. This euphoria, of course, is of the basketball variety.

We are just days removed from the completion of that exhilarating spring spectacle we've come to know as March Madness—the National Collegiate Ath-

letic Association Basketball Tournament. And here in the Nation's Capital, Senator DODD and I are very fortunate and proud to be establishing a spring rite of our own: coming to the floor on behalf of grateful fans across Connecticut—and we would like to think admiring fans across America—to praise the incomparable University of Connecticut Huskies, last year's men's team and this year's women's team champions of the basketball world once more.

With this victory on Sunday night defeating archrival Tennessee 71 to 52, the women Huskies not only earned their second national championship in 5 years, they also managed to set a school record for wins with 36 and to overcome what was their only loss in an otherwise perfect season to a very good Tennessee Volunteer team.

As just one measure of the University of Connecticut's captivating run to the championship, four of the five players named to the All-Tournament team were Huskies, including the tournament's Most Valuable Player—the extraordinary and indomitable Shea Ralph.

In celebrating this tremendous achievement, we are particularly proud of our National Coach of the Year, Geno Auriemma, for whom victory served on Sunday night as something of a triumphant homecoming. Geno was raised in the steel mill town of Norristown on the outskirts of Philly by his parents who brought him and his family from their country of birth, which was Italy. He was accompanied to Sunday's game by his mother, Marsiella, who watched from the stands. And, as anybody who watched the game on television learned, she was holding a jar of holy water in her lap, which she sprinkled on Connecticut's players for good luck.

They responded by playing what I would have to call a divinely inspired game.

It was, if you saw the game, one of those occasions when everything seems to come together and go right. It was an extraordinary experience for those of us who are the fans of this team.

On Monday, as the dawn came, people across Connecticut bore witness to a spectacle that I think few fans of women athletics could have envisioned when Congress first passed title IX in 1972. Across the State, from Danbury to Dayville, from Stamford to Stonington, communities came together and exalted in the accomplishments of this great Huskies team, a celebration equal in intensity to the one sparked by the men's championship last year. The Hartford Courant thought so much of the Husky victory that it dedicated its entire front page to their win, and it says it in one word. Here is a great picture of our coach, Geno Auriemma, doing his impersonation of Alan Keyes in the mosh pit—in this case, the team holding our triumphant coach. The one word which expresses our attitude in Connecticut about this great team is "euphoria."

Huskymania, we have come to learn, is an equal opportunity experience. In the town of Storrs, the picturesque, wooded hamlet that the University of Connecticut students, faculty, and administrators call home, more than 5,000 people turned out Monday for a midday pep rally of appreciation at the Gampel Pavilion, where sellout crowds watched this great team work their magic all year long. As the celebration grew more and more boisterous and enthusiastic, it seemed hard to believe that this was the same part of our State that used to be called "The Forgotten Corner," because these days, if you follow college basketball, it is an awfully hard place to forget.

The fact is, thanks to the Huskies, Storrs is home to the stars now. We like to think of it as the "College Hoops Capital of America."

Last year, when we came to the floor to celebrate the men's victory, I closed with an impersonation of a University of Connecticut cheerleader. I was advised by many people, including my dear friend and senior colleague, not to repeat this performance. But you know that I feel it would be unfair. So very briefly, U-C-O-N-N, UConn.

Thank you. I yield the floor.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, the last time I saw something like that was when Senator D'Amato did a tune.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. The Senator, let it be known, was one of my role models. I compliment him.

FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET—
Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 2926

(Purpose: To redirect \$28.133 billion of risky tax schemes toward key education programs proven to increase student performance, including programs that ensure qualified teachers in every classroom; small classes where every child receives the attention needed; safe, modern schools; extra resources for schools with large numbers of poor children and resources to turn around failing schools and implement tough accountability systems; research-based early literacy programs; public school choice programs; and increased Pell grant funds for students needing financial assistance for college education)

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DODD, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. WELLSTONE, proposes an amendment numbered 2926.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 4, line 4, increase the amount by \$1,930,000,000.

On page 4, line 5, increase the amount by \$6,230,000,000.

On page 4, line 6, increase the amount by \$5,480,000,000.

On page 4, line 7, increase the amount by \$5,810,000,000.

On page 4, line 8, increase the amount by \$6,940,000,000.

On page 4, line 13, increase the amount by \$1,930,000,000.

On page 4, line 14, increase the amount by \$6,230,000,000.

On page 4, line 15, increase the amount by \$5,480,000,000.

On page 4, line 16, increase the amount by \$5,810,000,000.

On page 4, line 17, increase the amount by \$6,940,000,000.

On page 4, line 22, increase the amount by \$5,640,000,000.

On page 4, line 23, increase the amount by \$7,120,000,000.

On page 4, line 24, increase the amount by \$6,470,000,000.

On page 4, line 25, increase the amount by \$7,080,000,000.

On page 5, line 1, increase the amount by \$8,420,000,000.

On page 5, line 7, increase the amount by \$1,930,000,000.

On page 5, line 8, increase the amount by \$6,230,000,000.

On page 5, line 9, increase the amount by \$5,480,000,000.

On page 5, line 10, increase the amount by \$5,810,000,000.

On page 5, line 11, increase the amount by \$6,940,000,000.

On page 18, line 7, increase the amount by \$5,640,000,000.

On page 18, line 8, increase the amount by \$1,930,000,000.

On page 18, line 11, increase the amount by \$7,120,000,000.

On page 18, line 12, increase the amount by \$6,230,000,000.

On page 18, line 15, increase the amount by \$6,470,000,000.

On page 18, line 16, increase the amount by \$5,480,000,000.

On page 18, line 19, increase the amount by \$7,080,000,000.

On page 18, line 20, increase the amount by \$5,810,000,000.

On page 18, line 23, increase the amount by \$8,420,000,000.

On page 18, line 24, increase the amount by \$6,940,000,000.

On page 29, line 3, decrease the amount by \$1,949,000,000.

On page 29, line 4, decrease the amount by \$28,133,000,000.

Add new Section 105, as follows:
SEC. 105. RECONCILIATION OF REVENUE REDUCTIONS IN THE SENATE.

Not later than September 29, 2000, the Senate Committee on Finance shall report to the Senate a reconciliation bill proposing changes in laws within its jurisdiction necessary to reduce revenues by not more than \$19,000,000 in fiscal year 2001 and \$1,743,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2001 through 2005.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield to the Senator from New Mexico 15 minutes off the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized for 15 minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I have to leave the floor for a while. I wanted to indicate that one-half hour of our hour in opposition is going to be yielded to the Senator from Texas. He will have half an hour.

I thank the Senator from New Mexico.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I am offering the amendment on behalf of myself, Senator KENNEDY, Senator MURRAY, Senator DODD, Senator KERRY, Senator DASCHLE, and Senator WELLSTONE, several of whom will speak.

It would increase the national investment in education over the committee's mark by \$5.6 billion in budget authority in fiscal year 2001.

Let me put up a chart that shows the difference between our proposed amendment and the budget resolution. You can see that the budget resolution is \$75 billion in 2001. Our amendment will raise that up to \$80.64 billion.

It also would increase over a 5-year period the total amount devoted to education by \$34.7 billion.

This second chart shows the comparison between the budget resolution that came to the floor and what this amendment would do.

In our view, this increase is essential if we are going to reflect the priorities of the American people. All of us know that the top priority of the people we represent is to see improvements in education and to see every child in this country given the opportunity to get a good education. Clearly, the decisions we make in this budget resolution will go a long way to determining whether that is possible or not.

The amendment I sent to the desk would use about 15 percent of the proposed Republican tax cut. It would reduce the tax cut by that 15 percent in order to guarantee sufficient funding for programs that have been proven to improve student performance in our public schools and to assist students seeking a postsecondary education.

What are those programs? That is the subject of our amendment. The amendment that we are proposing would seek to protect many such programs.

First, it seeks to protect a program to increase safety and decrease overcrowding in our schools by providing \$1.3 billion in grants and loans for urgent repair of 5,000 public elementary and secondary schools in high-need areas and by leveraging \$25 billion in interest-free bonds to help build and modernize 6,000 schools.

The amendment also demonstrates a national commitment to building and renovating our schools to make sure all children are able to study in safe, modern environments by setting aside \$3.7 billion of the proposed tax cut, which is just 1.8 percent of the total tax cut, to back those interest-free bonds for school construction costs.

These programs I estimate would provide about \$200 million in my home State of New Mexico where current estimates are that school repair and modernization needs exceed \$1.8 billion. Many schools are overcrowded. Over 69 percent of our schools in my State report plumbing and electrical problems; 75 percent have problems with environmental factors such as lighting and heating.

Another program we guarantee funding in what we believe is a reasonable