

is being imperiled by the unwillingness of the State of South Carolina to reach an agreement with the Department of Energy on taking shipment of the plutonium identified for disposition and building the required facilities.

It is appropriate for the Governor of South Carolina to insist on every assurance that his State will be treated fairly, and will not simply become the permanent storage site for unwanted nuclear material if for some reason the plutonium agreement should fall apart.

But the Governor has done that, he has succeeded, he has won. He should be congratulated.

The Governor has gotten the Secretary of Energy to provide South Carolina all of the assurances they never got from the Clinton administration, including full funding for the MOX program, a strict construction schedule, and a number of mechanisms, including statutory language and other measures, to ensure that the agreement will be legally enforceable.

However, the Governor is apparently insisting that this matter should be thrown to the courts and resolved through the mechanism of a court ordered consent decree. Putting the courts in charge of executive branch non-proliferation and foreign policy affairs will slow our ability to meet our goals of reducing Russian nuclear material stockpiles, and will allow others who are opposed to the program's goals have a voice in their implementation. Ultimately, I fear America's national security will be undermined.

Further delay in reaching agreement with South Carolina will undermine the United States/Russian plutonium disposition agreement. We must move forward with the construction of the MOX plant that will be used to dispose of the plutonium at issue in order to honor our commitments to the Russian Federation. That will be very difficult, if not impossible, in the face of litigation from the Governor of the State where the plant will be located.

The Russians will not go along to reduce their plutonium inventory unless we do. A failure in this program means more material may end up on the black market where terrorists could have access to it.

For 50 years now the State of South Carolina, like my home State of New Mexico, has hosted some of the most important facilities within our nuclear weapons complex. For 50 years, tens of thousands of the sons and daughters of South Carolina proudly toiled in relative anonymity so that the rest of the country, and the world, could enjoy the peace provided by our nuclear shield during the long, dark days of the Cold War. I am proud of the citizens of South Carolina and their unique service for our country.

Today, the children and grandchildren of the previous generations of South Carolina heroes have a tremendous opportunity to almost literally, as the prophet Isaiah said, "beat their swords into plowshares and their

spears into pruning hooks." They stand on the cusp of a grand new opportunity to lead the world community in converting nuclear weapons to electric power while at the same time keeping the material out of the hands of would be terrorists.

We must go forward with this important agreement. Thus, I will close today by urging both the Secretary of Energy and the Governor of South Carolina to work together to resolve their differences, move out together, and not threaten this effort by resorting to litigation.●

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

● Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, as a strong supporter of Federal programs to strengthen and protect libraries, I am pleased to recognize April 14–20 as National Library Week. This is the 44th anniversary of this national observance and its longevity is evidence of the great importance our Nation places on libraries, books, reading and education.

National Library Week grew out of 1950's research that showed a troublesome trend—Americans were spending more money on radios and television and less on buying books. The American Library Association and the American Book Publishers joined forces and introduced the first National Library Week in 1958 in an effort to encourage people to read and to use their libraries.

When the free public library came into its own in this country in the 19th century, it was, from the beginning, a unique institution because of its commitment to the principle of a free and open exchange of ideas, much like the Constitution itself. Libraries continue to be an integral part of all that our country embodies: freedom of information, an educated citizenry, and an open and enlightened society.

I firmly believe libraries play an indispensable role in our communities. They promote reading and quench a thirst for knowledge among adults, adolescents, and children. More importantly, they provide the access and resources to allow citizens to obtain timely and reliable information that is so necessary in our fast-paced society. In this age of rapid technological advancement, libraries are called upon to provide not only books and periodicals, but many other valuable resources as well audio-visual materials, computer services, Internet access terminals, facilities for community lectures and performances, tapes, records, video-cassettes, and works of art for exhibit and loan to the public.

Libraries provide a gateway to a new and exciting world for all the place where a spark is often struck for disadvantaged citizens who for whatever reason have not had exposure to the vast stores of knowledge and emerging technology available to others. In this information age, they play a critical role in bridging the digital divide.

Many families cannot afford personal computers at home, yet the role of computers has become almost necessary to a basic educational experience. The children of these families would suffer without the access to emerging technology that libraries provide to all patrons regardless of income. In addition, special facilities libraries provide services for older Americans, people with disabilities, and hospitalized citizens.

During National Library Week, I wish to salute those individuals who are members of the library community and work so hard to ensure that our citizens and communities continue to enjoy the tremendous rewards available through our libraries. Library staff, volunteers and patrons work to ensure existing libraries run smoothly and have adequate resources, as well as advocate for increased funding and new libraries.

I am proud that Maryland is a State of readers. Recent statistics show that Maryland citizens borrowed more public library materials per person than those of almost any other State, nearly 9 per person. In addition, 67 percent of the State's population are registered library patrons. We are lucky to have 24 public library systems, providing a full range of library services to all Maryland citizens and a long tradition of open and unrestricted sharing of resources. The State Library Network that provides interlibrary loans to the State's public, academic, special libraries and school library media centers has enhanced this policy. Marylanders have responded to this outstanding service by showing their continued enthusiasm and support for our public libraries. I have worked closely with members of the Maryland Library Association, colleges and universities and others involved in the library community throughout the State, and I am very pleased to join with them and citizens throughout the Nation in this week's celebration of "National Library Week." I look forward to continuing this relationship with those who enable libraries to provide the unique and vital services available to all Americans.●

PASSAGE OF THE HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET AMENDMENTS OF 2001 (S. 1533)

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, almost 39 million Americans wake up each morning, hoping that they or their families do not face illness or a serious accident—because they have no health insurance. Many more are underinsured and do not have access to a good health provider. They awake hoping that they and their loved ones will not get sick. For many, falling ill can mean financial ruin, or even death, because they cannot afford the critical health services they need.

During this time when our country struggles through the worst economic downturn in a decade, we must find innovative ways to provide access to

health care for our most vulnerable citizens. States are facing more than \$40 billion in deficits, unemployment is up, and the number of uninsured are rising.

Today, we offer Americans hope. I am proud that the U.S. Senate has joined together in passing the Health Care Safety Amendments of 2001. This bill reauthorizes two critical programs that serve our poorest populations—the health centers program and the National Health Service Corps. It also creates the Healthy Communities Access Program, HCAP. By bringing together public and private providers, HCAP will help improve the coordination of services for communities' most vulnerable populations.

At a time when our health care system too often treats people as statistics, this Nation's community health centers and our health professionals working through the National Health Service Corps treat them as patients who deserve the best available health care. They know their communities, they understand their concerns, they know their names, and they speak their languages.

For more than 30 years, these programs have provided health care to Americans who have no where else to go for services. In fact, it is difficult to imagine what health care in the United States would be like today without them. Without their extraordinary achievements, millions of the most vulnerable Americans would not receive the health care they need to live healthy and productive lives. Without the health centers and the National Health Service Corps, there would be higher rates of tuberculosis, infant mortality, AIDS, substance abuse, and many other debilitating conditions in our low-income neighborhoods. Without these two programs, the Nation's emergency rooms would be flooded with even more patients seeking primary care.

Despite their extraordinary accomplishments, far too often these health centers and providers struggle each day just to keep their doors open. That is why this legislation is so important.

Over the years, our community health centers have more than proven their worth. And as a result, last year, health centers received more support than ever before. We set a goal of doubling the Federal financial commitment to community health centers over the next 5 years. We need to continue expanding these programs and get more health professionals on the ground in health centers in America's small farming communities, urban centers, and sprawling suburbs.

And we must continue our commitment to the Healthy Communities Access Program. HCAP plays a very important role in our health care safety net. From the physician in private practice to the community health centers to the hospitals, all will work hand-in-hand to coordinate their efforts to reach the vast number of

Americans who fall between the cracks in today's health care system. We must ensure that we continue to fund this program to help safety net providers develop innovative ways to coordinate the care for the uninsured and underinsured. We should not put this important safety net program at risk of receiving lower levels of funding.

I commend President Bush for making the health centers program and the National Health Service Corps a priority in his 2003 budget, and I hope the administration will support the bipartisan HCAP program. I also commend Senator FRIST, Senator JEFFORDS, and the members of our committee for their hard work on this bill.

For more than 30 years, I have been inspired by those who invest their lives in caring for Americans who have no place to turn for health care. I thank my colleagues today for passing the Safety Net bill which will aid our health centers and doctors in delivering critical health care services in our poorest communities. In doing so, we not only offer the tools for ensuring healthier lives, but we provide hope for millions of struggling families.●

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL TIMOTHY A. PETERSON

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Timothy A. Peterson, Chief, Senate Liaison Division, Office of the Chief of Legislative Affairs, and Department of the Army who will retire on June 1, 2002. Colonel Peterson's career spans over 28 years, during which he has distinguished himself as a soldier, scholar, leader and friend of the United States Senate.

A New York native, Colonel Peterson graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1974 and was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Field Artillery Branch of the U.S. Army. During his career he has commanded soldiers from the battery through the installation level. At Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, he commanded the 7th Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division and later served as the Installation Commander of the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Dix, NJ. As a scholar Tim Peterson has sought opportunities to improve himself throughout his career. In addition to teaching mathematics to cadets at the United States Military Academy, he has served as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow and a Army Senior Fellow, Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellowship, as well as receiving advanced degrees from the University of Puget Sound, University of Washington, the Salve Regina College and the U.S. Naval War College.

Since September 1999, Tim Peterson has served with distinction as the Chief Army Senate Liaison. He has superbly represented the Chief of Legislative Liaison, the Army Chief of Staff, and the Secretary of the Army while promoting

the interests of the soldiers and civilians of our Army. His professionalism, mature judgement, sage advice and interpersonal skills have earned him the respect and confidence of the Members of Congress and Congressional staffers with whom he has worked on a multitude of issues affecting our Army, its soldiers and civilians. In almost 3 years on the Hill, Tim Peterson has been a true friend of the United States Senate and the Congress. Serving as the Army's primary point of contact for all Senators, Congressional Committees and their staffs, he has assisted Congress in understanding Army policies, operations, requirements and priorities. As a result, he and his staff have been extremely effective in providing prompt, coordinated and factual replies to all inquiries and matters involving Army issues. In addition, he has personally provided invaluable assistance to Members and their staffs while planning, coordinating and accompanying Senate delegations traveling worldwide. His substantive knowledge of the key issues, keen legislative insight and ability to effectively advise senior Army leaders have directly contributed to the successful representation of the Army's interests before Congress.

Throughout his career, Colonel Tim Peterson has demonstrated his profound commitment to our Nation, a deep concern for soldiers and their families and a commitment to excellence. Colonel Peterson is a consummate professional whose performance in over 28 years of service has personified those traits of courage, competency and integrity that our Nation has come to expect from its professional Army officers.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Colonel Peterson for his honorable service to our Army, its soldiers and the citizens of the United States. We wish him and his family well and all the best in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO INTEGRITY LODGE #51

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the Integrity Lodge #51 Prince Hall Masons, who will be celebrating 100 years of service to the community of Paterson, NJ, this month.

Prince Hall Masons, the founders of this organization, are the oldest African American fraternity in the United States. This celebration will truly highlight the contributions as well as the many accomplishments that this fine organization has made to its community.

Under the direction of Prince Hall Masons, the Integrity Lodge has enjoyed countless success stories. The Integrity Lodge has been recognized for guiding and providing leadership to African Americans. Additionally, the Integrity Lodge has made countless charitable contributions which in turn have positively affected many lives.