

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.

Through the efforts of this group of people, the community of Paterson has been enriched. I am confident that there are many lives that this organization has changed and I am sure that they find victories on a daily basis. It is my firm belief that the Integrity Lodge will continue this fine tradition of community service in the years to come, and will serve with distinction as tireless advocates on behalf of Paterson, NJ.

I congratulate the Integrity Lodge #51 for their 100 years of dedicated service.●

KLAMATH FOOD BANK

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to give tribute to some Oregon heroes. Over the past year, I have come to the Senate floor on several occasions to describe the tragic events in the Klamath Basin last year. Today, I wish to salute some of the heroes, who when watching their neighbors in need, responded with great compassion and service to their community.

In April of last year, the farm economy of Klamath Falls was sent into a tailspin when the decision was made to forego water deliveries to farmers in favor of protecting threatened and endangered fishes. Almost overnight, the devastating effects of the water shut-off began to be felt. In one month's time, the number of families seeking assistance from the local food bank jumped by seven hundred.

The response from the surrounding community was incredible. Farmers, car dealerships, coffee shops, gas stations, banks, schools, and countless others came together to lend their support to folks in the Klamath Basin. On June 15 of last year, Joe Gilliam, President of the Oregon Grocers Association, with the help of grocers from around the State, gathered 240,000 pounds of food. This food helped feed the community for nearly two months.

In August, Oregon Senator and farmer Gary George of Pendleton, Oregon decided that he too had to do something. He set out and, with the help of Oregonians In Action, raised \$30,000. Also in August, K-Dove Radio, Perry Atkinson and his son Oregon Senator Jason Atkinson, and sixty churches in the Medford area, joined together in collecting 27,000 pounds of food. They delivered it in two twenty-four-foot Ryder trucks.

The examples of kindness go on and on. For as tragic as the situation last year in the Basin was, Oregonians from around the State responded with an equal level of benevolence. With the help of hundreds of community volunteers and under the direction of Niki Sampson, the Klamath Falls-Lake County Food Bank has distributed 830,000 pounds of food and non-food products.

This has been a very emotional year, and as a U.S. Senator and as an Oregonian, I am very proud of how the people in my State have responded. The gen-

erosity shown by so many truly reaffirms one's faith in the goodness of people. In my mind, every single person who volunteered his or her time or resources is a hero. Today, I salute the workers, the volunteers, and all those who gave of themselves to help this community in need.●

VENEZUELA

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I rise regarding recent events in Venezuela and my concern that the response of the administration was inconsistent with our foreign policy goal of promoting democracy abroad.

On April 12, following anti-government protests by civil opposition sectors, supported by parts of the military, President Hugo Chavez was briefly forced to resign power. The civil-military movement named businessman Pedro Carmona as interim president, and he then took steps which further undermined constitutional order, dissolving the legislature and the Supreme Court. Instead of protesting these clear violations of democratic order, the U.S. found itself virtually alone in the region in seemingly welcoming the undemocratic change in government in Venezuela.

Latin American presidents, meeting in Costa Rica, quickly condemned the coup as contrary to democratic obligations of members of the Organization of American States. Their action had nothing to do with support for President Chavez, whose radical declarations and friendly links to Cuba and Iraq had caused discomfort in the region and in Washington.

However, the American government did not acknowledge that a coup had occurred and referred to the action as "a change in the government." After 2 days, the lack of full support inside the Venezuelan military, the extreme nature of the actions of the interim president in voiding Venezuela's democratic institutions, and the clear opposition of hemispheric leaders resulted in Chavez being reinstated to the presidency.

The Inter-American Democratic Charter, which the United States and the other members of the Organization of American States agreed to last year, commits all member governments to condemn and investigate the overthrow of any democratically elected OAS member government. These events tested the resolve of Western Hemisphere leaders in their support of democracy, and Latin American leaders responded decisively. Unfortunately, the American government failed the test.

Our government must support changes of government through a constitutional process, not military means. America's failure to condemn the illegal overthrow of a democratically elected leader in Venezuela has seriously undermined our credibility in the Western Hemisphere.

The United States must be a leader in promoting the strengthening of de-

mocracy in our hemisphere. We can do this by abiding by the OAS charter and by working within the OAS to maintain close scrutiny of democracies at risk.

The Secretary-General of the OAS, Dr. Cesar Gaviria, arrived in Venezuela this week to evaluate the latest developments and explore how the OAS can support Venezuela in its efforts to strengthen democracy. As a member of the OAS, our government should strongly and unequivocally support Secretary-General Gaviria's mission. We must also support the right of the voters of Venezuela to decide their political future. At the same time, President Chavez should fully respect individual freedoms, including freedom of the press, due process, and the rule of law. The OAS should continue to monitor the situation in Venezuela closely, and the U.S. Government should renew its commitment to democracy and democratic standards in the region.●

TRIBUTE TO TASK FORCE 2-153, ARKANSAS NATIONAL GUARD

● Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize the "Arkansas Gunslingers." Task Force 2-153, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Steve Womack, made military history on January 13, 2002 by becoming the first pure Army National Guard unit to represent the United States in performing the Multinational Force and Observer, MFO, mission on the Sinai peninsula in Egypt which was born out of the 1979 Camp David Peace Accords.

Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 153rd Infantry headquartered in Searcy, AR, along with other elements of the 39th Infantry Brigade were mobilized October 8, 2001 as part of President Bush's Homeland Defense initiative and the War on Terrorism. Under the strong leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Womack, Major Franklin Powell and Command Sergeant Major John Hogue, Task Force 2-153 exceeded all post-mobilization, pre-deployment, and post-deployment requirements. This accomplishment is particularly noteworthy given that these citizen-soldiers were given this critical and highly visible assignment just 90 days prior to deployment, at most, half the time to prepare routinely given to Regular Army units. When called upon by their commander in chief, this proud group of Arkansans literally lived up to their motto: "Let's Go"!

It is with great pride that I have risen today to pay tribute to the more than 500 soldiers who make up the Arkansas Gunslingers. They have selflessly put their private lives on hold to answer the call of duty. Their presence on the Sinai Peninsula is a powerful symbol of peace. The people of Arkansas are grateful for their service, and extremely proud that they have been chosen to represent the United States of America in this important mission.●