

as Continuous Care Retirement Community.”

Dr. Ryan has served on numerous public policy and professional boards and recently participated as a member of the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Regulatory Reform. The committee made recommendations to the Secretary regarding potential regulatory changes that would reduce costs associated with departmental regulations and at the same time, maintain or enhance effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and accessibility.

Dr. Ryan's past achievements and continuing interests provide evidence of her commitment to excellence and her advocacy on issues facing the elderly and their caregivers. I join her many friends and professional colleagues in extending thanks for her previous work and best wishes for her next endeavor.

A FREE ZIMBABWE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, today I draw my colleagues' attention to the situation in Zimbabwe, where courageous citizens continue to protest the political repression and economic collapse that have plunged their country into crisis.

Since 2000, President Mugabe has made a series of decisions intended to tighten his grip on power regardless of the cost to the country, trampling on the independence of the judiciary, harassing the independent media, manipulating the political process, intimidating opposition supporters, destroying the economy, and exacerbating a food crisis. A very real and legitimate issue—the need for meaningful land reform—was for a time employed as a fig leaf for the regime. But it has long been clear that this government is not interested in justice, only in power.

Last week's general strike has been the latest manifestation of public dissatisfaction. Reports from the region indicate that security forces are violently suppressing efforts to demonstrate in the streets, using rubber clubs, rifle butts, water cannons, tear gas, and live ammunition to disperse crowds, according to the Associated Press. Some 300 people have been arrested, including opposition parliamentarians. At this difficult time, it is important that the people of Zimbabwe know that the world is watching, and that like the Zimbabweans demanding change, the international community has not lost hope for the country.

I was proud to work with the distinguished majority leader, Senator FRIST, on the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act, a bill which was passed into law in the last Congress. This legislation makes it clear that when the rule of law is restored in Zimbabwe, and when the civil and political rights of citizens are respected, the United States will come forward to help the country recover, rebuild. We will continue to fight the

AIDS pandemic that is taking such a terrible toll on Zimbabwean society. I look forward to the day when we can follow through on that commitment, Mr. President, and help Zimbabwe to realize its tremendous potential as an engine of growth and model of participatory democracy in the region. Time after time, news reports confirm that Zimbabwe is full of patriots—citizens who refuse to allow their country to be hijacked by a self-serving cabal, independent journalists who risk torture when they seek to report the truth rather than the ruling party line, parents who want their children to grow up in a Zimbabwe free from repression and corruption. These people deserve our support and our admiration.

NATIONAL SMALL CITIES DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, the National League of Cities, led by Mayor Brenda Barger of Watertown, SD, has designated, June 20, 2003, as the third annual National Small Cities Day to call attention to the role of small cities and towns in American life.

The vast majority of cities throughout our Nation have populations of fewer than 50,000 people. These communities play an essential role in nurturing families, cultivating values, building a strong sense of commitment and connection, and ensuring safety and security.

Millions of Americans live better lives because small cities and towns provide services and programs that meet the needs of their citizens. Particularly during these difficult times in our Nation's history, these Americans have looked to the leaders of their small communities to ensure their safety and security. Partnering with other levels of government, small cities work hard to provide helpful and reliable information about national issues affecting hometown America, and to maintain confidence in our American way of life. Often, they carry out their vital responsibilities with limited staff and tight budgets but with enormous good will and close connections to the citizens they serve every day. The leaders of the Nation's small cities and towns are indeed on the front lines in addressing many of our Nation's most pressing problems.

Businesses, civic organizations, and citizens across the Nation are partners in strengthening hometown America, and must be encouraged to continue to support efforts that make these cities and towns such great places to live. The Federal Government, too, must continue to be a good partner by funding important Federal programs that support small cities and towns such as the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Community Oriented Policing Services Program, and local and regional homeland security planning and preparedness.

We must continue to work together and look for ways to further strength-

en our small cities and towns through creativity, innovation, and, above all, collaboration. I join the National League of Cities and the Small Cities Council in encouraging President Bush, my congressional colleagues, State governments, community organizations, businesses, and citizens to honor the efforts of “small town America” and renew our commitment to work together on this day and in the future to strengthen our small cities and towns, and to recognize their essential role in our intergovernmental partnership.

CONFLICT IN THE CONGO

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ituri Province. Recently, international attention has been focused on the alarming ethnic violence in the region, where thousands have been killed in the past year. Credible reports suggest that over 50,000 people have died in Ituri since 1999, and a half a million more have been displaced. For years, this horror was lost in the larger tragedy of Congo's conflict, in which over 4 million people are estimated to have lost their lives.

Clashes between Hema and Lendu militia forces in Ituri escalated recently as external actors fuel the fire with increasingly sophisticated arms and support, essentially waging proxy wars at the expense of Congolese civilians. The reports from the region are truly appalling, featuring horrific murders, mutilation, cannibalism, rape, and the use of child soldiers. The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo, which has no mandate or capacity to enforce peace, has been reduced to struggling to protect the civilians who have fled in desperation to U.N. sites in Bunia, but their capabilities are severely limited, and most civilians frantically searching for help and security are left with no help at all.

Congo's suffering is more than a humanitarian crisis. It is a massively destabilizing force in Africa. The war has drawn in other states and provided lucrative opportunities for international criminals. We cannot forget that our security is at risk when these shadowy forces are making gains.

The pattern of massive human rights abuses and constant destabilization has to stop. I recently offered an amendment to the foreign assistance authorization bill in the Foreign Relations Committee designed to bolster U.S. support for activities in central Africa aimed at pursuing justice and accountability, deterring abuses, and holding those responsible for such abuses accountable for their actions. That is one small step toward a constructive policy in the region over the long-term. But with regard to Ituri, the U.S. must take action urgently today.

On May 30, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution authorizing the Secretary-General to reinforce the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the northeastern town of Bunia. France has

agreed to lead the multinational force, and while our relationship with France has certainly not been an easy one lately, their leadership on this issue is admirable. The United States should provide all appropriate assistance to this mission, and I am grateful to be joined by Senator ALEXANDER, Senator BIDEN, and Senator LUGAR in making that point clear in communications to the administration.

We have spent a great deal on MONUC to date, but if we do not take action to defuse this explosive situation, if we stand by and let militia forces rip apart the province in a struggle for power and mineral wealth, then I am at a loss as to how to explain this investment. The U.S. must also work closely with other international actors to move forward on a process of disarmament and a meaningful political solution to the conflict, so that the respite that may be offered by this new force is not short-lived. Perhaps most importantly, the U.S. must take concrete steps to insist that the government in Kinshasa and the governments of Rwanda and Uganda stop use their influence with the parties to stop the violence. We cannot simply stand by, reading reports of grotesque violence and massive suffering, and claim that there is nothing we can do. There is actually a great deal of work to be done. We should start today.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RUTH EVANS

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Ruth Evans of Henderson, KY, for her selfless devotion to Kentucky's youth. Ruth received the Excellence in Service award from the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children for her relentless service as a foster parent.

Representing the Green River Region, Ruth Evans along with her late husband, George, began providing a safe home to children in need 22 years ago and have done so without any prejudice towards the foster child's background, personality or disability. To date she is credited with raising 250 foster children in addition to the eight children of her own. Her love of children and her dedication to ensuring that every child receives the best opportunity to succeed has been the backbone of her service as a foster parent.

While receiving the Excellence in Service award is a wonderful honor for Ruth, she says her greatest reward for her efforts are the occasional visits she receives from former foster children who return as adults with children of their own to share their lives with her. Some foster children come to Ruth neglected and abused but all have had the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe environment.

Ruth's faith in God has been a guiding force during her years spent as a

foster parent. As the father of nine children and the grandfather of many more, including some adopted children, I am inspired by Ruth's example. Her efforts have made all the difference in the lives of so many and she has helped make Kentucky a better place to live. Parents and foster parents alike throughout Kentucky and across America should emulate her example. I thank the Senate for allowing me to recognize Ruth and voice her praises. She is Kentucky at its finest. •

CONGRATULATING FOSTERS DAILY DEMOCRAT ON 130 YEARS OF SERVICE TO NEW HAMPSHIRE'S SEACOAST

• Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I rise today to pay tribute to a proud New Hampshire institution celebrating an important milestone this year. For 130 years, Fosters Daily Democrat, a now daily newspaper serving the people of the city of Dover and New Hampshire's seacoast region, has provided exceptional coverage of local and State news. Since its founding by Joshua L. Foster, the paper has remained under the ownership and direction of the Foster family and is the only daily newspaper in our Nation displaying a family name in its banner.

In order to understand the significance of the milestone Fosters is celebrating this month, it is important to recognize just how much news the publishers, editors and reporters have witnessed and brought to the Dover area since June of 1863. The 1860 census lists a little over 8,500 Dover residents. Today the city is proud to have nearly 27,000 residents. During its first decade, Fosters witnessed a time of tremendous production and growth in the Cocheco Print Works and Pacific Mills, two the most important employers in town. The Mills, which harnessed the power of the Cocheco River, produced some of the finest cotton products in the nation and employed 1,200 workers. The Print Works was churning out in excess of 65 million yards of printed cottons a year to an increasingly global market.

In addition to reporting on the area's growth and prosperity, Fosters also brought one of the worst disasters in the history of the city to its readers—the great flood of March 1896. As any New Hampshire resident knows, tremendous amounts of rain in the early spring aided by melting snow from the previous winter, causes flooding. This was certainly true on March 1 and 2 that year when the city lost three bridges, numerous businesses, and incurred tens of thousands of dollars in economic hardship to a deluge that caused raging currents and swept large chunks of ice into the middle of town. Fosters was on hand to cover it all.

When President Theodore Roosevelt visited Dover in 1902, Fosters was there. When 545 residents of Dover served in World War I, Fosters brought their stories to New Hampshire, and

again in World War II when 2230 Dover residents fought to defend our Nation. And in 1973, when Dover, the oldest continuous settlement in New Hampshire, and seventh oldest city in the United States, marked its 350th birthday, Fosters Daily Democrat marked 100 years of publishing. Since the middle of the 20th century it has followed countless Presidential candidates trudging through our State in the cold and snow. Fosters Daily Democrat has been there every step of the way to make sure its readers stay informed and in touch with issues that concern them.

In addition to its coverage of events in and around the Dover area, the paper also brings its readers coverage of national and world events, including the war on terror. In a recent editorial, March 29, Fosters cautioned its readers to be wary of folks "who seek mightily to undermine the American way of life and their intent to perpetrate atrocities against innocent people either directly or by aiding and abetting those who would carry out such deeds." Today, the paper holds true to the words of its original editor, Joshua Foster, who in the first editorial published in June 1873 pledged that, "Whatever may tend to benefit this people and enhance their prosperity, will receive our warm and enthusiastic support."

For 130 years, five generations of the Foster family, currently led by Bob and Terri Foster, have brought news from Dover City Hall, the New Hampshire Statehouse and locations around the globe to the front porches of New Hampshire's seacoast. On this special anniversary I sincerely congratulate them on the tremendous job they continue to do, thank them for the important public service they perform, and wish them the best of luck in the future. •

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

• Mr. SMITH. Madam President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in Mesquite, TX. On October 4, 2001, Vasudev Patel, a 49-year-old Indian gas station owner, was shot to death during an armed robbery. His killer told police that he was motivated by vengeance for the terrorist attacks as he allegedly had lost a relative in the World Trade Center. A security camera recorded the armed man walking into the station, ordering the owner to give him all of the money before shooting him. Unable to open the cash register, however, the man fled without taking any of the money.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them