

Mr. Koenig; Crooked Lake Elementary—Ms. Clair, Mrs. Coe, Mrs. Gibson, Pam Manko, Maureen Ledin, Mrs. Stowell; Crookston—Nancy Melby; Crossroads Elementary—Ruby Buchmayer, Axel Caberea, Gina Costello, Melissa Green, Virginia Herriges, Karen Lee, Mrs. Watterrud, Brenda Petta; Crosswinds Arts and Sciences Middle School—Mark Russo; Crystal Lake Elementary—Sharon Dewald; Custer High School, Milwaukee, WI—Daniel Przybylowski; Cuyuna Range Elementary—Wendy Gindorff; Cypress Elementary, New Port Richey, FL—Susan Phillippi; Dakota Hills Middle School—Greg Monbraid, Michael Schlink, Heather Thaller; Dakota Meadows Middle School—Joe Broze, John Lawton; Dakota Prairie Unity High School—Cliff Peterson; Dallas Center Grimes Community High School, Grimes, IA—Steven Saleas; Dassel-Cokato High School—Susan Marco; Dassel-Cokato Middle School—Kip Kip Link, Julie Lund, Nathan Youngs; Dassel-Cokato Senior High Joe Harmala, Linda Bain, Lanett Daniel, Dianne Eveland, Kristin Gruber, Kate Michaels, Terry Protivinsky; Deephaven Elementary—Karl Boberg, Diane Jost; Deer Path Middle School, Lake Forest, IL—Thomas Cardamone; Deerwood Elementary—Debbie Iverson, Julia Kirschbaum; Delano High School—Mr. Johnson; Delano Middle School—Mr. Bergren, Gary Brophy, Tory Spainer; Denfelt Senior High—Ruth Schulzt; Desert Ridge Elementary, Phoenix, AZ—Mr. Cook; Desert Sands Unified School District, La Quinta, CA—Mrs. Kcoop; Dexter High School, Dexter, MI—Richard Grannis; Diamond Path Elementary—Nancy Cooley; Discovery Elementary—Marsha Watkins; Douglas Elementary—Bette Jacobs; Dowling Elementary—Laurel Engman, Joseph Rossow, Bob Tscida; Downtown Open School—Kate Bowler, Abby Lindesmith, Kristin Sonquist; Duluth Kathy Fahrmion, Deanne Ferguson; Duluth Central High School—Sherman Moe; Duluth East High School—LaDonna Bergum, Robert Mix, Bill Tormendson; Duluth Public Schools—Judy Kopperman; Duluth Secondary Tech School—Lou Zywicki; Eagan High School—Peter Otterson, Mrs. Zimmen, Amanda Adams, Adam Copeland, Barb Geier, Roland Hoke, Joe Joran, Jane Lee, Jesse Madsen, Paulette Reikowski, Sue Retka, Kim Waltman; Eagle Lake Elementary—Mrs. Barsness; Eagle Point Elementary, Oakdale—Lucille Bryant, Cheryl Chacka, Marge Proulx; Eagle Ridge Junior High—Tia Clausen, Mandi Johnson, Mrs. O'Connell, Barb Johnson; Earl School, Fort Peck, MT—Betty Hirsch; Earle Brown Elementary—Mr. Axen, Amy Berge, Mary Mandel; Early Childhood Family Education, Balaton—Diane Peterson; Early Childhood Family Education, Buffalo—Patty Lammers; Early Childhood Family Education, Ruthton—Tracey Kuhlman; Early Childhood Family Education, Slayton—Diane Ellens; Early Childhood Family Education, St. Michael—Mona Voelker; Early Childhood Special Education, Glencoe—Cindy May; East Bethel Community School—Kate Arnold; East Grand Forks School District—Marcie DeGroot; East High School—Mr. Bender; East Saint Paul Lutheran School—Rick Block, Karen Reem; East Side Elementary—Cheryl Hoff; East Union Elementary—Jenny Killian; Eastern Heights Elementary—Sharon Graves; Eastside Workplace Kindergarten—Michelle Brunswick; Eastview High School—Ms. Henrikson, Mary Kuettner, Frank Pasquerella, Ann Strey; Echo Park Elementary—Kim Coleman; Eden Lake Elementary—Brian Gunderson, Pat Kinch, Janet Krmpotich, Kate Plamer, Joan Tetric, Kim Thrasher; Eden Prairie High School—Steve Cwodzinski, Michael Holm, Marty Teigen, Jo King, Margaret Bicke, Mark Bray, Karen Breittingen, Annie Cull, Mike Holm, Ms.

Kanthak, Bruce Kivimaki, Kari McSherry, Dean Rath, Rob Saint Clair, Vince Thomas, Brent Turner, Linda Wallenberg, Mrs. Welter, Mrs. Werning, Mike Whipkey; Edgerton Elementary—Ann Benson, Mrs. Rasusson, Terry Tremain, Mrs. Wobbema; Edgewood Middle School—Bill Sucha, Debbie Wall, Shelly Wright; Edina High School—Daniel Baron, Mr. Benson, Kim Budde, Gail Casey, Tom Connell, Martha Cosgrove, Besty Cussler, Alejandro Diaz-Andrade, Barney Hall, Lisa Hanson, Angela Kieffer, Colleen Raasch, Chris Reono, Michael Roddy, Brian Simpson; Edina Highlands Elementary—Mark Wallace; Edinbrook Elementary—Mrs. Gerber, LuAnn Gunderson; Edison High School—Mike Doyle, Norman Glock, Frank Goodrich, Matt Maki, Robert Sivanich, Pamela Wolfe; Education Service Center, Bloomington—Anna Smith; Edward Neill Elementary School—Judie Prayfrock; Eisenhower Elementary—Cathy Berger; El Colegio Charter School—Cathy Diaz; Elk River High School—Kathy Ellefson; Elk River School District—Mrs. Talley; Ellis Middle School—Sylvia Stier; Elton Hill Elementary—Kelly Wright-Glynn; Elysian Elementary—Mark Meyer, Sandy Mielke; Emerson Spanish Immersion—Flory Sommers, Theresa Wilson; Emmet D. Williams Elementary—Susan Bates, Diane Biederman, Ms. Hagen, Jessie Reinhart-Lind, Joni Springer; Epiphany School—Betty Flanigan, Matt Foslyn, Wendy Snyder; Ericsson Elementary—Sharon Bahe, Kathleen Hewitt, Terry Vick; Eveleth-Gilbert Senior High—Betty Daniels; Evergreen Park Elementary—Beth Neil; Excell Academy—Aaron Hjermsstad, Megan Hjermsstad; Excelsior Elementary—Mark Broten, Mark Garrison, Tim Ketel, Sara Macke, Sandy Miller, Mrs. Nickle, Annette Smith; EXPO for Excellence Magnet—Mrs. Desembre, Mrs. Michel, Mary Ross, Ulla Tervo-Desnick, Maura Tschida; Face to Face Academy—John Vasecka; Fairmont High School—Daniel Chicos, Mr. Gorath, Cliff Janke, Dan Schuh; Fairview Elementary—Darren Lukenbill; Faithful Shepherd Catholic School—Kim Michalak, Julee Titze; Falcon Heights Elementary—Paul Charest, Delores Cox, Kelly Klein, Meggan Lovick, Holly Maddox, Ms. Plathe, Mrs. Slasmacher, Mrs. Winginland; Falcon Ridge Middle School—Dave Fournier, Gregg Kotsonas, Sharon Lund; Falls High School—Mr. BJORQUIST; Falls Secondary—Darrell Schmidt; Faribault High School—Mrs. Bottke, Bernie Engrav; Farmington Middle School West—Sue Bieraugel, Patti Haberman; Farnsworth Elementary—Jane Vega; Fergus Falls High School—Sue Empting, Judith Halverson; Fergus Falls Middle School—Dave Ellis, Mr. Mitberg; Fertile-Beltrami—Kordula Holmrick, Joan Kronschnabel, Scoot Larson; Field Elementary—Mary Hill, Ms. Slocum, Sandy Barry, Allison Constant, Ms. Stevenson; Willow River Elementary—Brian Bassa, Jeannie Mach; Wilshire Park Elementary—Gail Beall, Ms. Burba, Kathie Frank, Jason Hartman, Sarah Taylor, Mrs. Wyatt; Windom Open Elementary—Kim Landreville; Winona Area Catholic School—Linda Schauer; Winona High School—Daryl Miller, James Miller, Meryl, Nichols; Winterquist Elementary—Brooke Pfister, Wendy Smith; Woden-Crystal Lake School District—Howard Dorman; Woodbury High School—Theresa VonRuden; Woodbury Elementary—Linda Brommer, John Flavin, Julie McGee, Kay Peliter, Dave Ross; Woodbury High School—Dave Carlson, Meredith Deullman, Bruce Monroe, Duane Tannahill, Theresa VonRuden; Woodbury Junior High—William Barr, Tania Dantas, Sarah Prunty, Shannon Smith, Frau Tol, Jim Carlson, Mrs. Rafferty, Robert Schumacher; Woodland Elementary—Joni Hodsdon, Terry Langager, Scott Lund,

Diana Rotty, Stuart Samsky; Woodland Hills Academy—Wendy Robinson; Worthington High School—Mr. Sphingen; Wrenshall High School—Kris Nelson; Wylie Elementary School—Mr. Durhlan; Wyoming Elementary—Tom Erickson, Cheryl Runquist, Julie Sorenson, Terry Buerkle, Mary Ellen Dellwo; Zachary Lane Elementary—Yvonne Peterson, Angela Steiner, Mike Westby; Zanewood Elementary—Jon Fritz; Zemmer Junior High—Mike Suschler; Zimmerman Elementary—Mrs. Gerlach, Barb Roos, Ben Kvildt; Zion Lutheran Christian Day School—Sheila Sandell; Zumbrota-Mazeppa Elementary—Mary Ann Urban.

VOTING INTEGRITY AND VERIFICATION ACT

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to comment on S. 2437, the Voting Integrity and Verification Act, VIVA, which prevents any vote in the upcoming election from being cast inaccurately by allowing voters to check their ballots on paper to ensure accuracy. The paper trail required with this bill would serve as a safety net if an electronic malfunction happens to occur.

American voters are skeptical coming into the 2004 election after the much debated recounts that took place in the 2000 election, and in order to put the voters at ease, we must make our voting technology better and keep every vote on record. I have heard from several Montanans who say they want the security to view an individual paper version of the ballot before it is cast and counted. They also want to know they have the opportunity to correct errors that are discovered on the individual paper version of the ballot that this bill will provide. I join Senator ENSIGN and Senator REID in urging all of my colleagues to vote in favor of the Voting Integrity and Verification Act of 2004 to ensure that votes are accurately cast in the upcoming election.

PROGRESS ON TAA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise to address the progress that's been made in how the Trade Adjustment Assistance, or TAA, program operates. You may recall that in 2002, I worked with Senator BAUCUS to shepherd landmark TAA reforms through Congress. President Bush acknowledged the role of TAA as an important part of his comprehensive trade agenda when he signed these reforms into law in August of that year. The reform legislation made a number of changes to TAA, including, for the very first time, the addition of a new health coverage tax credit, or HCTC, and a new wage insurance provision, as well as a doubling of the funds available for retraining workers dislocated by trade. Given the number and significance of the changes made to TAA, I joined Senator BAUCUS in asking the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, to study how the TAA Reform Act is being implemented. Separately, we asked GAO

to study how the health coverage tax credit is being implemented. The GAO report on TAA came out last month, and while it's clear some of the details of implementation merit further study, overall the report shows a marked improvement in the way TAA is administered.

The GAO report notes that the Department of Labor has reduced its average petition-processing time from 107 days in 2002 to 38 days in 2003, and the percentage of petitions processed in 40 days or less increased from 17 percent in 2002 to 62 percent in 2003. Certified workers are enrolling in training services more quickly than in prior years. More broadly, it is evident that the funds available under TAA are beginning to be administered more effectively. One of the hurdles that Labor officials had to overcome was a perception, at least in some states, that all TAA-eligible workers are entitled to training. According to GAO, that perception contributed to problems with managing TAA training funds.

In response, the Labor Department has encouraged States to take steps to better administer TAA funds. The Labor Department has also improved the way it disburses training funds so that State officials can better target the funds that are available to workers who are truly in need of training. These efforts are starting to pay off; in fact, after the GAO report came out, we learned that thanks to improved administration by the Labor Department, \$28.4 million dollars was available at the end of the 2004 fiscal year for supplemental distribution. Last week my home State of Iowa received an additional \$559,626 dollars in additional TAA training, job search; and relocation funds. These funds will help ensure that trade-impacted Iowans will receive the benefits they are entitled to under the program. The same is true for States across the country. I think we can all agree that it is good to see our taxpayer dollars being spent more wisely.

Unfortunately, the GAO report fails to capture the full breadth of the improvements made by the Labor Department. The report States that 19 states temporarily discontinued enrolling TAA-eligible workers in training at some point between fiscal years 2001 and 2003 because they lacked adequate training funds. However, GAO collected only aggregate data, so it is unclear how many States temporarily discontinued enrollment before funding was doubled in the TAA Reform Act of 2002, versus after. That information would have been helpful. The report does note that six States temporarily discontinued enrollment during fiscal year 2004, which is quite puzzling given the fact that the TAA program had funds left over at the end of the year. I think it is important to note that Labor dispatched technical assistance teams to help those States implement needed improvements so that workers could get access to training. Since there

wasn't any shortfall in funds, it seems those 6 States can work with Labor to administer the program more effectively. So, while Labor's progress has been impressive, there's certainly more work to be done.

The wage insurance provision known as alternative TAA for older workers is a brand new program, so it is not surprising that implementation has not been without hiccups. But things are improving. According to the Labor Department, as of August 2004, 32 States had already issued alternative TAA payments and another 11 States had the capability to do so. In addition, 48 States reported that information on the alternative TAA program is provided as part of their rapid response activities. Approved petitions for alternative TAA increased from 60 in fiscal year 2003 to 937 in fiscal year 2004. Importantly, since alternative TAA went into effect in August 2003, well over 700 workers have received assistance from this new program.

As for the health coverage tax credit, it is also a brand new program. The just-released GAO report shows that the HCTC was implemented at record speed and is providing valuable health care coverage to thousands of displaced workers and recipients of benefits from the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or PBGC. While the initial take-up rate may not be as high as was estimated at the time the TAA Reform Act was passed, even GAO noted that determining an actual rate of participation rate is difficult. Not all workers initially identified as being eligible will meet all the requirements, and of those that do it is not apparent how many have access to healthcare coverage via their spouse. In addition, enrollment numbers for the HCTC do not reflect all of the dependents who also benefit from the HCTC.

The Labor Department has reached out to educate the public about these and other aspects of the TAA Reform Act. Labor officials conducted 15 training sessions with stakeholders across the country in fiscal years 2002 and 2003. During fiscal year 2004, six regional forums were held for workforce practitioners in which Labor began focusing on policies and practices that integrate service delivery to dislocated workers in need of services. Labor administers a wide array of programs for trade affected workers, including both TAA and the Workforce Investment Act, or WIA. In the past, these programs have been splintered, leading to inconsistent service delivery. Through initiatives started by the current Department of Labor, workers are now receiving a wider array of services in faster time. While it is clear more work remains, the GAO reports do bear witness to the progress that's been made.

I will continue working with Senator BAUCUS to monitor developments and oversee implementation of the TAA Reform Act. We must continue to assess how the program can be improved. For example, there is currently no in-

centive for States to report the most accurate information possible. We should consider ways to improve the data that is reported, so the TAA program's true impact can be fully assessed. Additional study by GAO may prove helpful in this and other areas. Labor started its own 5-year rigorous impact evaluation of the TAA program this year, and that should also prove helpful. But while there is room for improvement, it is also true that much has been accomplished, and I want to take this opportunity to thank the hard working officials at the Department of Labor for their dedication in implementing the significant changes brought about by the TAA Reform Act of 2002. I also thank officials at the Internal Revenue Service, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and PBGC, along with those in State agencies, who have worked so hard to implement the HCTC.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE WEEK

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to remind my colleagues that this week is Nuclear Medicine Week. Nuclear Medicine Week is the first week in October every year and is an annual celebration initiated by the Society of Nuclear Medicine. Each year, Nuclear Medicine Week is celebrated internationally at hospitals, clinics, imaging centers, educational institutions, corporations, and more.

I am particularly proud to note that the Society of Nuclear Medicine is headquartered in Reston, VA. The Society of Nuclear Medicine is an international scientific and professional organization of more than 15,000 members dedicated to promoting the science, technology and practical applications of nuclear medicine. I commend the society staff and its professional members for their outstanding work in the field of nuclear medicine and for their dedication to caring for people with cancer and other serious and life-threatening illnesses.

Some of the more frequently performed nuclear medicine procedures include: bone scans to examine orthopedic injuries, fractures, tumors or unexplained bone pain; heart scans to identify normal or abnormal blood flow to the heart muscle, measure heart function or determine the existence or extent of damage to the heart muscle after a heart attack; breast scans that are used in conjunction with mammograms to detect and locate cancerous tissue in the breasts; liver and gallbladder scans to evaluate liver and gallbladder function; cancer imaging to detect tumors; treatment of thyroid diseases and certain types of cancer; brain imaging to investigate problems within the brain itself or in blood circulation to the brain; and renal imaging in children to examine kidney function.

I thank all of those who serve in this very important medical field and join them in celebrating Nuclear Medicine Week.