

If the law is not reauthorized, the production of assault weapons can legally resume. Restarting production of these weapons will increase their number and availability and inevitably lead to a rise in gun crimes committed with assault weapons. The Senate has shown bipartisan majorities for renewing the assault weapons ban. President Bush should demand that Congress act this year to extend the ban.

GAO FEBRUARY COMPETITIVE SOURCING REPORT

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I have repeatedly voiced my opposition to the Administration's aggressive outsourcing agenda which I believe comes at too high a cost to Federal workers and to Government accountability and cost-effectiveness. My concerns are confirmed by a February 2004 General Accounting Office, GAO, report entitled, "Competitive Sourcing: Greater Emphasis Needed on Increasing Efficiency and Improving Performance," GAO-04-367. I highly recommend this report to my colleagues.

The GAO reviewed the Federal outsourcing agenda at seven agencies: the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Interior, Agriculture, Education, and Veteran's Affairs. These agencies contain 84 percent of Federal jobs eligible for outsourcing. The administration has identified 304,800 Federal jobs for outsourcing at the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Interior alone, which represent nearly 42 percent of the total workforce of these agencies.

GAO found that the examined Federal agencies are focusing more on implementing Office of Management and Budget, OMB, mandates on the number of competitions at the expense of cost-efficiency. In 2001, the administration had established the goal of privatizing up to 50 percent of federal jobs. However on July 23, 2003, the OMB's Administrator for Procurement Policy, Angela Styles, testified before the Governmental Affairs Committee that contracting quotas would be terminated and replaced by agency-specific plans.

This shift in policy came after repeated criticisms from both sides of the aisle in the Senate and the House of Representatives. For example, the FY03 Transportation, Treasury, and General Government Appropriations Act severely restricted the use of contracting quotas as a result of strong bipartisan opposition.

There are important steps we can take now to improve the cost-effectiveness and fairness of public-private competitions. As ranking member of the Governmental Affairs Financial Management Subcommittee and the Senate Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee, I am working to improve the financial transparency and cost-savings of Federal outsourcing policies. Federal contracts should be required to generate at least 10 percent savings

over agency costs. The Federal Procurement Data System, FPDS, reports that the Federal Government spent approximately \$250 billion on Federal contracts in 2002. The Senate passed FY04 Omnibus Appropriations Act would have required a minimum of 10 percent cost-savings before Federal jobs are contracted out. Unfortunately, this measure was stripped from the FY04 Omnibus Appropriation Act.

The GAO report reaffirms the need for a minimum cost-savings in Federal procurement policies. By law, the Department of Defense, DOD, is required to achieve cost-savings before jobs are contracted out. DOD is the largest buyer of contracted services and according to recent FPDS data spent over \$164 billion in 2002.

We can also improve fairness in public-private competitions. Before decisions are made to contract out Federal work, agencies need the personnel, funding, and technology to ensure that the work is performed in a timely and cost-effective manner. We cannot expect Federal employees to oversee billions of dollars of contracts without these resources, which is why I was disappointed to learn that GAO found that six out of the seven agencies examined had only one or two employees overseeing outsourcing activities.

Moreover, we should level the playing field so that Federal workers have the right to appeal the loss of a competition just as contractors do today. Fair competition must ensure that affected employees have proper appeals and protest rights. Unlike Federal employees, Federal contractors have the right to protest OMB Circular A-76 decisions before the GAO. I am disappointed that the FY04 Omnibus Appropriation Act stripped a provision that would have provided Federal workers the same appeal rights as contractors.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure that Federal procurement policies offer the best return on the dollar and are fair to Federal workers. The results of this GAO review reaffirms that there is more work to be done in this area.

WISCONSIN'S ACQUISITION OF A WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I was very happy to learn this week that Wisconsin will be one of 12 new States to receive funding for a full-time Weapon of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team—WMD-CST—this year and I want to congratulate the Wisconsin National Guard for their efforts to secure a full-time team. These teams, made up of members of the National Guard, play a vital role in assisting local first responders in investigating and combating the new threat we face in the 21st century. During the 2002 Baseball All-Star Game in Milwaukee, WI had to call in Minnesota's civil support team because Wisconsin did not

yet have a full-time team. I am pleased that Wisconsin will now have its own capability to quickly respond and protect its citizens from possible terrorist threats.

I have worked for years now to assure that all states and territories have at least one of these teams and I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for helping me in this endeavor. We have had great success. The Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 made it law that all states and territories have at least one WMD-CST and Congress authorized and appropriated the funds to establish 12 of the 23 teams during fiscal year 2004. Now we must make sure that the last 11 teams are funded in fiscal year 2005.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SALUTING DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

• Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a service sorority dedicated to promoting sisterhood, scholarship and service, for their efforts in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as of the end of 2002, an estimated 42 million people worldwide—38.6 million adults and 3.2 million children younger than 15 years of age—were living with HIV/AIDS. Approximately 70 percent of these people, 29.4 million, live in Sub-Saharan Africa; another 17 percent, 7.2 million, live in Asia. Of the estimated 15,603 AIDS-related deaths in the United States in the year 2001, approximately 52 percent were among African Americans and Hispanics. Racial and ethnic minority populations constitute more than 57 percent of the more than 800,000 cases of AIDS reported in the United States since the epidemic was discovered in 1981. Further, the Centers for Disease Control reports that as of December 2001, African Americans and Hispanics represented 52 percent of AIDS cases reported among males and 78 percent of those in females. Fifty-eight percent of all women reported living with AIDS that year were African Americans and 20 percent were Hispanic. African American children represented 58 percent of all pediatric cases. Of the 175 pediatric AIDS cases reported in 2001, 139, 79 percent, were African Americans and Hispanic. AIDS is one of the leading cause of death among African-American men ages 24 to 44. Recognizing the urgency of the issue, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has taken a leadership role in educating the global community on how to decrease the AIDS pandemic, thus promoting health and wellness.

Delta Sigma Theta's effort focuses on an intense HIV/AIDS Education Campaign beginning with encouraging local Delta chapters to implement internal

education awareness workshops. This enabled the sorority members to better understand the drastic impact HIV/AIDS is having on African American women of all ages. In addition, for the past 3 years, chapters have participated in the sorority's International Day of Service for HIV/AIDS, a public awareness program in which a day is committed to providing HIV/AIDS education and prevention services to communities around the world.

On Saturday, March 13, 2004, the more than 900 chapters of the sorority located in 44 States, the District of Columbia, and in 6 countries abroad will conduct forums and seminars, provide counseling and testing, raise funds for research and services, and petition lawmakers to enact legislation that effectively addresses HIV/AIDS issues. In my State of New Jersey alone, the Central Jersey Alumnae chapter will sponsor a community forum entitled "Why Not Me? The Affect of HIV/AIDS on Our Families." The event will include key sessions for citizens of diverse age groups, helping participants to clarify perceptions/myths about HIV/AIDS and encouraging them to speak openly about the impact of the disease on their communities. There also will be an open general session in which TEEN PEP of Somerset County will perform some powerful and thought-provoking pieces.

The Montclair Alumnae chapter will provide direct services to the Academy Street Firehouse After-School Project. As part of the AIDS Resource Foundation for Children in Newark, the Academy Street Firehouse addresses educational, vocational, social and medical needs of children and teens who are dealing with the loss of a parent due to AIDS. Approximately 50 children between the ages of 7 and 17 will receive services.

The North Jersey Alumnae chapter will hold three seminars on topics related to the HIV/AIDS: (1) The Secret Lives of AIDS; (2) The role of the church in the fight against HIV/AIDS; and (3) How individuals can protect themselves. There will be free testing and counseling. Speakers will include community activists and church leaders. There also will be a dramatization by the "POWER" group, a youth organization that teaches about HIV/AIDS and its affects.

The Rancocas Valley Alumnae chapter will partner with the Township of Willingboro to present workshops for men, women and children on (1) HIV/AIDS prevention; (2) Functioning as a person living with HIV/AIDS; (3) Caring for people with AIDS; and (4) Volunteering with HIV/AIDS organizations. The day will be filled with a variety of activities such as panel discussions, videos, dramatic presentations, praise dancers, and step teams.

The Trenton Alumnae chapter along with the Rho Epsilon and Tau Kappa collegiate chapters will host Trenton's 2nd Annual Aids Walk. The Walk will begin at a local school and end at City

Hall where the chapters will host a rally and speakers who will discuss the impact of HIV/AIDS. Donations will be collected to benefit the Rainbow House, a nonprofit organization that provides housing for children and adults living with HIV/AIDS in the city of Trenton.

The membership of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. provides an extensive array of public service programs and projects through the sorority's Five-Point Program Thrust: Economic, Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, and Political Awareness and Involvement. The "International Day of Service" is an activity of the sorority's mental and physical health focus "Summit V: Let It Continue—Heal and Healing: Promoting Health and Wellness on HIV/AIDS." Summit V is a means through which Deltas throughout the world assist in informing and educating the public and families about women's health issues, develop community partnerships to help inform the public and provide access to services; provide leadership for supporting policy development and promoting and enforcing legal requirements that protect the health and safety of women; and support research and political efforts to gain new insights and innovate solutions to health problems impacting women.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority was founded on the campus of Howard University in 1913 by 22 visionary college women. Notable members include our colleague in the other Chamber, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES of Ohio, civil rights pioneer and Congressional Gold Medal recipient Dr. Dorothy I. Height, and former Labor Secretary Alexis Herman.

I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., for their global efforts in the battle against HIV/AIDS, and I urge fellow Americans to participate in the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., "International Day of Service" projects in their communities on March 13, 2004.●

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PAMELA LAMAR JORDAN

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Pamela Lamar Jordan, a tireless advocate for families and the plight of children. She was committed to serving the needs of her community and to improving the quality of life for young people in Saginaw. Pamela received numerous community service awards throughout her life. She will be missed by those whose lives she has touched.

Pamela Lamar Jordan was born in Saginaw, Michigan on June 24, 1961. She is a graduate of Arthur Hill High School and was in pursuit of her BSW at Saginaw Valley State University. She was a member of the Word of Faith International Ministries, where she

worked with the Youth Department. She was also a 1999 graduate of the Spoken Word School of Ministry.

In 1995, Pamela founded the New Alternatives Youth Service Center in Saginaw, Michigan. The Center's purpose is to educate young people and to provide an alternative to drugs, gangs, and violence. Pamela was also a mentor with the Family Youth Initiative, which is affiliated with the Bay Area Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency.

Pamela was also the founder of the Saginaw Sister-2-Sister Spirit of Excellence Pageant. Sister-2-Sister promotes abstinence and works to decrease the rate of pregnancy among teenage girls in the Saginaw community. Pamela believed this program helps local teenagers better understand themselves, and provides them with the appropriate information necessary to make healthy life choices.

Pamela Lamar Jordan passed away at the age of 42 on March 7, 2004. She was a woman of great faith who was devoted to her family and to her community. Pamela is mourned by her family, the members of her church, and many people across my home state of Michigan. Pamela is survived by her husband Cornelius Jordan and her four daughters: Melony, Janey, Terri and Brianna.

This is, indeed, a great loss to all who knew her or for those who have benefitted from her work. I know my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to the life and work of Pamela Lamar Jordan. I hope her family takes comfort in knowing that her legacy will stand as an inspiration for generations to come.●

STAFF SERGEANT RONALD W. HOSKINS

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, I commend Staff Sergeant Ronald W. Hoskins of Fort Leonard Wood, MO, for over 20 years of service in the U.S. Army. He began his service in March of 1983, when he attended Military Police training and subsequently moved to Dugway Proving grounds, Utah to act as a military police desk sergeant.

In 1984 he was reassigned to Germany where he graduated from Military Police Investigations School at the Combined Arms Training Center. In 1987 he was promoted to Sergeant.

In late 1987 Sergeant Hoskins moved back to the United States where he served in both Texas and Alabama, until he was assigned to the 142nd Military Police Company in Yongstang, Korea, in 1990.

In 1991 Sergeant Hoskins began working as an investigator and evidence custodian at Fort Bliss, Texas. He served in this position until 1995 when he returned to Yongstang.

In 1996 He was assigned to the 978th Military Police Company, and during this tour was promoted to staff sergeant while he served as a military police patrol supervisor.