

The number of Americans without health insurance is equal to the combined populations of 24 States and the District of Columbia. As of a September 2003 National Bureau of Census report, the most recent set of comprehensive figures on this problem, nearly 44 million people had gone without health insurance for the span of an entire year or longer. Millions more had been uninsured for part of a year.

The estimated 43.6 million people who are currently uninsured face constant financial vulnerability. At any moment they could face financial devastation by the costs associated with an unexpected injury or disease. In Maryland alone, there were 595,500 uninsured in 2003—approximately 13 percent of Maryland's population. According to the Baltimore Sun, 700,000 people younger than 65 have no insurance.

Lack of insurance takes a huge financial toll on families. On average, the uninsured are forced to pay 35 percent of the overall costs of their medical coverage. As a result, medical bills are the leading cause of bankruptcy and are cited as a reason for half of all personal bankruptcy filings.

In my own State of Maryland, we hear the worries of people with pre-existing conditions who cannot change their job because they fear they will never again be eligible for affordable health insurance. I hear about recent college graduates who are no longer eligible for coverage under their parent's insurance policy and are going without, hoping nothing happens to them until they find a job that has health benefits.

I hear the stories of those who have had to forego care because they are uninsured; mothers, fathers, children who have fatal disease, forced to face fatal consequences because they cannot effectively access the health care system. Statistics show that up to 18,000 people die each year because we ignore the plight of the uninsured. That is the equivalent of 49 people a day.

Who are the uninsured? Often we are led to believe that if people are working they will have health coverage for themselves and their families. This is not the case. Eighty percent are in families in which at least one person is working. Many employers and workers are finding it difficult to afford health insurance due to the continual increases in health care costs. Service and labor jobs, which make up a significant portion of our workforce, are less likely to offer insurance. Moreover, part-time workers are often ineligible for employer-sponsored insurance and low-wage workers often cannot afford to pay their premiums.

This phenomenon has a very negative impact on the lives of children. Mr. President, 8.5 million of our children are uninsured, which is more than the number of children in first and second grade in all of our public schools combined. A Florida Healthy Kids Corporation study showed that uninsured kids are 25 percent more likely to miss

school than insured children. Such a percentage represents a significant disadvantage for children, especially for those who likely face other obstacles as well.

Often those with insurance take these benefits for granted. We tend to ignore that which does not directly affect us. But those who are ignoring this problem for that reason should think again. There are consequences to all of us for ignoring the plight of the uninsured. According to a recent Institute of Medicine report, the United States loses \$65–\$130 billion each year as a result of the poor health and early deaths of uninsured adults. These numbers are called lost “health capital,” also known as individual work losses and development losses in children due to poor health. A community's high rate of uninsurance can adversely affect its overall health status, including the financial stability of its health care institutions and providers. Moreover, such communities face decreased access to services such as emergency departments and trauma centers.

I hope the Senate in the near future can begin to engage in discussions about meaningful ways to provide quality, comprehensive, affordable health care for all of our citizens. I would like to comment the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and their cosponsors for creating Cover the Uninsured Week. I urge my colleagues to use this week as an opportunity to redouble our efforts to work toward a collective and comprehensive solution to address this critical problem.●

ROBERT GLIDDEN

● Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, the State of Ohio has had a good friend in Ohio University President Robert Glidden for many years. Higher education in particular, in Ohio and elsewhere, has had a good friend in Dr. Glidden for a lifetime.

As he prepares to retire next month from the presidency of Ohio University, my alma mater, I think it is important to recognize Dr. Glidden's commitment, dedication and hard work. Most of all, though, I would like to applaud his stance that education is the best means through which to raise up the individual, the State of Ohio and our great Nation, and his zeal in conveying that philosophy.

On July 1, 1994, Dr. Glidden became the 19th president of Ohio University, the first public institution of higher learning in the old Northwest Territory. He previously had served Ohio as dean of the Bowling Green State University College of Musical Arts from 1975 to 1979 and assistant professor of music at Wright State University from 1966 to 1967. His other posts have included professor, music school dean, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Florida State University and music professor at Indiana University and the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Glidden can be proud of his service to higher education. In the past decade, he has taken Ohio University to a new level of excellence by emphasizing the university's academic and research missions. He has also made it an Ohio University priority to reach out to Southeast Ohio through the university's strong regional campus system, the Voinovich Center for Leadership and Public Affairs, and a multitude of other offerings. He has moved the university forward—by way of improvements in undergraduate education, technological advancements and campus improvements—during some of the toughest economic times we have faced in recent memory.

This has taken considerable creativity, focus and foresight, and often it has meant making difficult decisions. It also has required a commitment to seeking out new opportunities and revenue streams. Under Dr. Glidden's watch, external funding for Ohio University faculty research has climbed to \$54.3 million, up from just \$34.4 million six years earlier. The university also is about to surpass the \$200 million goal of its Bientennial Campaign.

These are accomplishments on the grand scale, but there is a personal side to Dr. Glidden that students of Ohio University have come to know and appreciate. Above all, he respects them. He wants them to appreciate learning for learning's sake and gain knowledge and skills that will last them a lifetime, especially because the focus of their careers is likely to change several times as the years go by. He also has emphasized civility and character, attributes that—as we see every day—are more important now than ever.

Likewise, Dr. Glidden has nurtured Ohio University's relationship with its alumni. These individuals, now some 170,000 strong, are making important advancements and contributions around the globe. He takes pride in their accomplishments, and he encourages their continued involvement with and support for their university and education in general.

My wife Janet and I have enjoyed being able to get to know Bob and his wife, Renée. Renée's contributions to the university community are noteworthy in their own right. Not only did she oversee the renovation of the President's residence—painstakingly stripping and refinishing the home's main staircase herself—she has also made valuable contributions as a career volunteer. She has served on the Board of Trustees of the Dairy Barn/Southeastern Ohio Cultural Arts Center, the Stuart Opera House, Community Design Inc., the Percent for Art Committee, and the Ohio Arts Council.

In addition to his distinguished service to Ohio University, Dr. Glidden has taken a leadership role in higher education in Ohio and around the country through his involvement with Ohio's Inter-University Council and service as founding chair of the Council on Higher

Education Accreditation. Such activities have helped raise the bar for educational institutions around the country and earned him the respect of his peers nationwide. In the words of Miami University President James Garland, whose school has long enjoyed a healthy rivalry with Ohio University: "When it comes to defending budgets and advancing policies in the interest of higher education, Bob has been a leader in the state . . . I have as much respect for him as a university president as anyone I've ever met."

I am grateful, as I know others throughout southeast Ohio are that Dr. Glidden has expressed an interest in continuing his service to Ohio University, albeit in a more modest fashion, during retirement. His passion for education and the doors it opens make him a most valuable ally for the students of today and the leaders of tomorrow. Thank you, Bob, for your service. Go Bobcats.●

AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an organization that has done so much good in our country. I am happy to be able to congratulate the American Legacy Foundation on its 5-year anniversary. Five years ago, the American Legacy Foundation was born out of the Master Settlement Agreement, MSA. As we are all aware, the States' lawsuits against the major cigarette companies explicitly required Sates to spend certain amounts of their settlement payments on tobacco-prevention efforts and to advance public health.

I would like to personally commend those organizations, such as the American Legacy Foundation, who have worked tirelessly for 5 years to reduce smoking in our Nation. Smoking is now at its lowest level in nearly three decades. This did not happen by chance. It happened because States and communities all across this great Nation, led by the American Legacy Foundation, challenged and continue to challenge the tobacco industry.

Whether it is an award-winning youth counter marketing campaign, or "Great Start," an innovative cessation program for pregnant women, there is no denying the fact that programs such as these have successfully convinced teens, pregnant women and older adults that they can quit smoking.

In closing my remarks, I encourage my colleagues to remain committed to the spirit of the Master Settlement Agreement, so that we can eliminate tobacco addiction altogether. By squelching America's smoking habit, it is my hope that we can achieve the vision of a smoke-free society.●

WE THE PEOPLE NATIONAL FINALS COMPETITION

● Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, from May 1-3, 2004 more than 1200 students from across the United States came to

Washington, DC to take part in the national finals of "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution." This is the most extensive program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We the People" program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am very proud to note that a class from Cheyenne Central High School in Cheyenne represented the State of Wyoming in this prestigious national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to our Nation's capital and compete at the national level.

The 3-day "We the People" National Finals Competition is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge before a panel of adult judges while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Their testimony is followed by questions designed to probe the students' depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge. Columnist David Broder once described this annual competition as "the place to come to have your faith in the younger generation restored."

Most recently, the "We the People" program was highlighted at two national conferences held in 2003: the White House Forum on American History, Civics, and Service, and the first annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education. Evaluations and independent studies have validated the effectiveness of the "We the People" program on students' civic knowledge and attitudes. This innovative civic education program continues to be one of the best antidotes to apathy and cynicism in our Nation.

I am certain everyone enjoyed their participation in the "We the People" national finals and I applaud the achievements of all who took part in the program. We should all be proud that so many are focused on and are learning about the fundamental principles and ideals that identify us as a people and bind us together as a nation.●

MILKEN EDUCATOR AWARD

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize three outstanding teachers from my home State of Louisiana who will be honored by the Milken Family Foundation with the Milken Educator Award at their National Educator Conference here in Washington. The Milken Family Foundation was established in 1982 with the mission to discover and advance inventive and effective ways of helping people to help themselves and those around them lead productive and satis-

fying lives. On May 4-6 they will be holding their National Educator Conference in Washington, DC.

With a major focus on education, the Milken Family Foundation is committed to recognizing and rewarding the Nation's most outstanding educators and helping them to expand their leadership and potential. This year, the Milken Family Foundation has recognized Amanda Mayeaux, a math teacher at Dutchtown Middle School, Phyllis Diecidue, a reading teacher at St. Bernard High School, and Josh Michael Burton, a biology teacher at Albany High School, all from the State of Louisiana. They are among one hundred teachers who were selected from across the country to receive this very prestigious \$25,000 award.

When I think back to my education, I remember many inspiring teachers who helped make me who I am today. Without highly qualified teachers who are dedicated to the success of every student, my colleagues and myself would most certainly not be where we are today. Today, research is confirming what common sense has suggested all along. A skilled and knowledgeable teacher can make an enormous difference on how well students learn. As we look towards the future of our country and the sustainability of our democracy, we must look to our children, the future leaders. The future of our workforce and our country depends on our ability to recruit and retain qualified teachers in our classrooms, who will help our children become active and responsible citizens. Often times teachers are not recognized for the challenges and struggles which they encounter each and every day and tremendous significance of their work. We must remember that it is our Nation's teachers who are in the trenches each and every day ensuring that our children gain the knowledge and skills that they will need to be successful.

As we in Congress continue to focus on education reform and ensuring that all children have access to the same quality education, it is important that we also take a moment to recognize the teachers who work hard every day to ensure that our children are succeeding. It is because of the hard work and dedication of these teachers that our children can set their sights towards a bright future. I know that my colleagues here in the Senate join me today in congratulating these exceptional educators and the other ninety-seven teachers from around the country who were recognized with this high honor.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.