

and enrollment efforts in both Medicaid and SCHIP in order to enroll the nearly 7 million children who are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP but unenrolled. In addition, this legislation addresses another important barrier to enrolling SCHIP eligible children by prohibiting states from capping their SCHIP programs without first exhausting all available federal funding. Although this provision is a step in the right direction, the American Academy of Pediatrics believes that any cap on health care funding for public program coverage is detrimental to ensuring that all uninsured, eligible children and families are able to enroll.

The American Academy of Pediatrics believes that all children, regardless of income, should have access to affordable health insurance such that their families can afford health care services necessary for healthy development. We therefore commend your efforts to strengthen the SCHIP program and give states the option to expand this program to reach more children in their state whose families are unable to afford health insurance in the private market. We encourage states to maintain efforts mandated in the SCHIP statute to minimize crowd-out of the private market as they consider such expansions of SCHIP coverage. Because in most states Medicaid and SCHIP currently pay physicians who care for children at inadequate rates, maintaining the private market is necessary to allow physicians to subsidize care for these children. The Academy urges Congress to consider the impact of inadequate payment rates for services under Medicaid and SCHIP on access to necessary services for beneficiaries in these programs.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is committed to protecting Medicaid and SCHIP. We look forward to working with you on this and other legislative efforts to protect, sustain, and strengthen these critical child health safety net programs.

Sincerely,

CARDEN JOHNSTON, MD, FAAP,
President.

THREE MONTHS AND COUNTING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, 3 months from yesterday is the expiration date for the assault weapons ban. Despite Senate passage of a bipartisan amendment that would have reauthorized the ban, it appears that this important gun safety law will be allowed to expire. The House Republican leadership opposes reviewing the law and President Bush, though he has said he supports it, has done little to help keep the law alive.

In April of this year, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence joined hundreds of local elected officials and senior law enforcement officials to urge President Bush to push for reauthorization of this critical piece of gun safety legislation. I commend them for their efforts and continue to support this commonsense gun safety legislation.

The 1994 law banned a list of 19 specific weapons, as well as a number of other weapons incorporating certain design characteristics such as pistol grips, folding stocks, bayonet mounts, and flash suppressors. The assault weapons ban also prohibited the manufacture of semiautomatic weapons that incorporate at least two of these military features and which accept a detachable magazine.

I support the efforts of the law enforcement community and local leaders who are calling for legislation extending the law. In 1994, I voted for the assault weapons ban and, in March of this year, I joined a bipartisan majority of the Senate in voting to extend the assault weapons ban for 10 years.

Law enforcement support for the assault weapons ban is broad. It includes the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Police Foundation, the Police Executive Research Forum, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Fraternal Order of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, and the National Black Police Association.

In addition, mayors and police chiefs from Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Seattle, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. have joined over 200 other local leaders in urging Congress to immediately pass a 10-year extension of the current ban.

Despite broad support for this law, the National Rifle Association fought against passage of the assault weapons ban in 1994 and continues to oppose it to this day. The ban is a major public safety measure that protects citizens and police officers and I urge the President and the Congress to act immediately to reauthorize the law.

FRANCES WILLIAMS PRESTON

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding native Tennessean, Frances Williams Preston.

Frances Preston was born in Nashville, TN and attended elementary, high school and Peabody College at Vanderbilt University there. She holds honorary degrees from the Berklee School of Music, Boston, MA, Lincoln College, Lincoln, IL, and Oklahoma University, Tulsa, OK. Ms. Preston is married to Nashville businessman E.J. Preston, and she is the mother of three children and the grandmother of six children.

This year, Frances Preston will retire from her position of President and Chief Executive Officer of Broadcast Music Inc., BMI. Under Ms. Preston's leadership for the past 18 years, BMI gained international respect as a leader in the entertainment industry and is viewed as one of the music industry's most consistently successful and progressive entities. BMI was founded in 1939 and it operates as a non-profit making business. After operating expenses are paid, BMI returns all royalties to approximately 300,000 creators and copyright owners that it represents.

Ms. Preston began her career in the music industry when she joined the nationally known Nashville radio station, WSM, in mid-1950 as a mail room em-

ployee and where she answered fan mail sent to Hank Williams. Later, she became the popular hostess of a daily fashion and style television show on the WSM station. In 1958, Ms. Preston became a part of BMI when she opened a BMI operation in Nashville as a result of some slight prodding by the first President of BMI, Bob Burton. Ms. Preston began her career with BMI with one assistant working in her parents' garage and oversaw the company's growth to more than 400 employees in Nashville. In 1986, Ms. Preston was appointed to serve as President & CEO of BMI. Ms. Preston played a lead role in building BMI's 2004 repertoire of nearly 4.5 million musical works.

Ms. Preston has been vigilant and supported legislation with respect to rights and incomes of songwriters, composers and publishers.

Frances Preston has received numerous awards and recognition, including but not limited to the T.J. Martell Foundation Humanitarian Award in 1992, the Friar's Applause Award in 1993, the International Achievement in Arts Humanitarian Awards in 1995 and 1997, the American Women in Radio and Television's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1998, the American Women in Radio and Television President's Award in 1998, the National Trustees Award at the 1998 Grammy Awards, the Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research Woman of Achievement Award in 1999, the National Music Publishers' Association's President's Award in 2001, the Nashville Songwriters Association International President's Award in 2002, the Women in Music Touchstone Advocate Award in 2003, the Michael Bolton Charities' Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003, the Irving Waugh Award of Excellence, and the Broadcasters' Foundation's Golden Mike Award in 2004.

Ms. Preston sits on numerous boards and generously volunteers her time to many charitable organizations.

This brief statement cannot capture all the strengths of Frances Williams Preston and her manifold good works for songwriters, composers and publishers, and America as a whole. I did want to bring to my colleagues' attention the accomplishments and legacy of Frances Preston, and I am honored to recognize the contributions of this great Tennessean.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM GREENBLATT

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I congratulate Mr. William Greenblatt, a man whose accomplishments are a true testament to what a business and community leader should be, as he celebrated his 50th birthday on June 9, 2004.

Mr. Greenblatt began his career providing photography services for commercial, industrial, public relations

and nonprofit organizations including the City of St. Louis, Make-A-Wish Foundation, United Way, and American Heart Association. He also serves as the St. Louis Fire Department's photographer recreating fire scene construction and investigations as well as documenting training and incidents.

During Mr. Greenblatt's career, he has had the honor of being the official photographer for many of the most prominent Missouri Federal, State, and local politicians, as well as St. Louis artists Nelly and Toya. In addition to his services at United Press International, he has contributed to numerous publications such as the Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Newsweek Magazine, New York Times, and the Washington Post.

Mr. Greenblatt has dedicated both his professional and personal life to the betterment of his community. He has served on several nonprofit boards as well as being a member of several professional organizations including the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association, St. Louis Journalism Review Board of Editorial Advisors, Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, and the James S. McDonnell Board of Directors.

Throughout his service, Mr. Greenblatt has been honored with several achievements including placing in the Baseball Hall of Fame Photo Contest, Certificate of Appreciation from the City of St. Louis Emergency Management Agency, Outstanding Citizen Award.

Mr. Greenblatt has a distinguished record of service in his public and private life. I thank him for his dedication to his profession as well as his contributions to the St. Louis Community. On behalf of Missouri, I wish him a happy 50th birthday.●

HONORING JOHN BURSON

● Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, in our formative years, many of us were exposed to the phrase "you can do anything that you set your mind to." This cliché is symbolic of the optimism embodied in the American Dream. Across the width and breadth of this great land, we see countless examples of people who exemplify that spirit.

Some of us live out that dream by finding success as teachers, others as doctors. Some of us find passion in the freedom of flight, while some of us thrive in the rigid structure of the military. Very few of us are able to test our limits and succeed in multiple areas. I stand before you to recognize one such person.

Dr. John Burson is a shining example of what a human being is capable of if one has the will and the focus to reach for the stars. He has spent the last 25 years serving the citizens of Carroll County, GA, as an ear, nose, and throat specialist. All the time and effort required to become a practicing physician is a lot to ask of anyone, however it is merely the tip of the iceberg for Dr. Burson.

Before pursuing a career in medicine at the age of 37, Dr. Burson spent his time acquiring a bachelor's degree and a master's degree, as well as a Ph.D. in Engineering, from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Upon completing his doctorate, he continued to pass on his knowledge to others for several years as a professor at Georgia Tech. Dr. Burson obtained his post-graduate degrees and professorship while simultaneously serving as an officer and pilot in the Army Reserves, where Dr. Burson rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Only after achieving all of this, at the age of 37, with a wife and children, did John decide it was time to pursue a career in medicine.

Twenty five years later, John has found a way to impress us all again. In a short time, he will be heading to a field hospital in Iraq to relieve an active duty physician for 3 months, allowing that physician 3 months back home with his or her family. While many his age are beginning to look towards quieter days, John Burson is once again serving his country, as well as providing a most precious gift to a person that he has never met.

Orison Swett Marden, a famed Nineteenth Century thinker, stated that "the greatest thing a man can do in this world is to make the most possible out of the stuff that has been given to him. This is success and there is none other." Soldier. Scholar. Doctor. Husband. Father. I believe that Mr. Marden, were he still alive, would not hesitate to proclaim John Burson a successful man. People spend most of their lives attempting to do one thing well. Few and far between are the people who have the courage to try and determination to achieve success at all. Dr. John Burson is one of those few and I am proud to call him a fellow Georgian and a fellow American, and I thank him for his years of service to our country, to the State of Georgia, and to his community.●

RECOGNIZING LARSON MANUFACTURING

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President it is my great honor to recognize today the 50th Anniversary of Larson Manufacturing, the Nation's leading manufacturer of storm doors, which is headquartered in Brookings, SD. I take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Dale Larson, founder of Larson Manufacturing, for his success and thank him for all of the many contributions he and his company have afforded the Brookings community and the State of South Dakota. In addition, as with any successful business, it takes a great team effort to accomplish such a milestone. So to all of the former and current employees of Larson Manufacturing . . . job well done.

Larson began as a small factory and now employs over 1,000 people nationwide. Larson storm doors are known for their exceptional quality and superior craftsmanship. What truly makes

this company great is the dedication and commitment to quality shared by all of the employees. This company has truly been a model of a good corporate citizen. Mr. Larson is widely known for his generosity to the Brookings community. Among the many charitable projects this company has spearheaded are Larson Park, Larson Ice Arena, and a community bike path. In addition, over 3,000 storm doors are donated to Habitat for Humanity each and every year, making the dream of home ownership a reality for many families. It is with great honor that I share this company's impressive accomplishments with my colleagues.●

TRIBUTE TO KOHRS LONNEMANN HEIL ENGINEERS PSC

● Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Kohrs Lonnemann Heil Engineers for being named the Kentucky Small Business Person of the Year.

Joseph R. Kohrs, Robert A. Heil, Robert A. Lonnemann are the leaders of Covington's Kohrs Lonnemann Heil Engineers, a mechanical and electrical engineering firm offering heating, ventilating, air conditioning, electrical, fire protection, plumbing and communication technology consulting engineering services. Being one of the few firms in the area offering this combination of services, today, it has carved its own sizable niche, providing excellence in engineering, design and field services to Kentucky.

Kohrs Lonnemann Heil Engineers is an outstanding example of how Kentuckians use their entrepreneurial talent, drive and vision to create opportunities not just for themselves, but for others. What began as a humble business almost 47 years ago is now a leading engineering firm that is a leader in giving back to the community.

Northern Kentucky is fortunate to have Kohrs Lonnemann Heil Engineers as a home-based business. But more importantly, it is fortunate to have Mr. Kohrs, Mr. Heil, and Mr. Lonnemann call Northern Kentucky home. I appreciate their loyalty to Kentucky and their community. The company has been a shining example of leadership, hard work, and compassion. They are an inspiration to all throughout the Commonwealth.

Congratulations, Kohrs Lonnemann Heil Engineers. You are Kentucky at its finest.●

COMMEMORATING FRANK BAKER

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a constituent, Frank Baker, who will mark his 50th year of exemplary service to the American Legion California Boys State Program.

Since 1935, the Boys State Program has brought together high school boys from across their States to immerse them in a week of education about, and simulation of, their State government. The California program began in 1938,