

taking one moment to buckle-up could make a life-or-death difference to the thousands who needlessly die on our roadways every year.

For those lucky enough to survive a devastating auto crash, the health care costs can be staggering. On average, hospitalization costs for unbelted traffic crash victims are 50 percent higher than for those who buckled-up. The needless deaths and injuries that result from not wearing seat belts cost society an estimated \$26 billion annually in medical care, lost productivity and other injury-related costs.

These deplorable statistics are reversible. We can significantly reduce deaths and serious injuries from motor-vehicle crashes by enforcing seat belt use nationwide through a primary enforcement law like the one Senator Warner is now proposing.

In my home state of Michigan, a primary enforcement law has been in effect for three years. In that time, nearly 200 lives have been saved, and over 1,000 serious collisions have been averted because of this change in the law.

As a physician, it is a rare blessing to be in a situation where we can easily identify the solution to a public health threat. Passage of the primary enforcement seat belt law will save lives. It's that simple.

RON DAVIS,
AMA Trustee.

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION
OF CHIEFS OF POLICE,
Richmond, VA, February 9, 2004.

The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP) endorses S. 1993, a bill to create incentives for the states to enact primary safety belt laws. In 2002 in Virginia, we had 913 automobile fatalities. Of those 913 fatalities, 438 (62.7%) were not wearing a safety belt. In those 913 fatality crashes, 9,912 injuries were sustained by unbuckled occupants.

Under our current secondary enforcement law, Virginia's front seat safety belt use is 74.6%, which includes drivers and front seat passengers. Research tells us that front seat occupants of vehicles involved in potentially fatal crashes in states with primary safety belt laws have a 15 percentage point higher belt use than persons in states without primary laws.

The VACP supports the passage of primary safety belt laws as a proven tool to increase safety belt usage and reduce serious injuries and fatalities in the event of a traffic crash. Public education and enhanced traffic enforcement efforts have failed to increase Virginia's safety belt usage rate much beyond 75%. States with primary safety belt laws consistently experience safety belt usage rates up to 90%. The VACP believes that the passage of a primary safety belt law in Virginia will increase belt usage and save the lives of countless Virginians.

DANA G. SCHRAD,
Executive Director,
Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police.

EXHIBIT 1

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION,
Washington, DC, November 12, 2003.

Hon. JAMES INHOFE,
Chairman, Committee on Environment and Public Works, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: With almost 43,000 people dying every year on our nation's highways, it is imperative that we do everything in our power to promote a safer transportation system. The Bush Administration's proposal to reauthorize surface transportation programs, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2003 (SAFETEA), offers several bold and innovative approaches to address this crisis.

President Bush and I believe that increasing safety belt usage rates is the single most effective means to decrease highway fatalities and injuries. As a result, SAFETEA's new core highway safety program provides States with powerful funding incentives to increase the percentage of Americans who buckle up every time they get in an automobile. Every percentage point increase in the national safety belt usage rate saves hundreds of lives and millions of dollars in lost productivity.

Empirical evidence shows that the surest way for a State to increase safety belt usage is through the passage of a primary safety belt law. States with primary belt laws have safety belt usage rates that are on average eight percentage points higher than States with secondary laws. Recognizing that States may have other innovative methods to achieve higher rates of belt use, SAFETEA also rewards States that achieve 90% safety belt usage rates even if a primary safety belt law is not enacted. I urge you to consider these approaches as your Committee marks up reauthorization legislation.

While safety belts are obviously critical to reducing highway fatalities, so too is a data driven approach to providing safety. Every State faces its own unique safety challenges, and every State must be given broad funding flexibility to solve those challenges. This is a central theme of SAFETEA, which aims to provide States the ability to use scarce resources to meet their own highest priority needs. Such flexibility is essential for States to maximize their resources, including the funds available under a new core highway safety program.

I look forward to working with you on these critically important safety issues as development of a surface transportation reauthorization bill progresses.

Sincerely yours,
NORMAN Y. MINETA.

Mr. WARNER. I am pleased to say Senator MURRAY has asked to join as a cosponsor and I so request that be noted on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

"WE THE PEOPLE . . ." PROGRAM

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, more than 1200 high school students from across the Nation will come to our Nation's capital this summer to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the history and philosophy of our Nation's most important documents: the Con-

stitution and Bill of Rights. These ambitious students will be participating in the annual national competition of "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution." This laudable effort, which is federally funded, is the most extensive educational program in the country designed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. At a time when a study by the National Association of Educational Progress shows that three-quarters of America's students are not proficient in either American history or civics, the importance of this program is unquestionable.

"We the People . . ." helps our students not only appreciate our constitutional democracy, but it allows them to "participate" in it. Students start with an instructional program where they learn about our Government's primary institutions while they discover the relevance of our Constitution and Bill of Rights to their daily lives. Their lessons then simulate real-life when the students participate in a "Congressional hearing" where they "testify" before a panel of judges. By using the principles and knowledge they've learned in the classroom to role play, these students have the opportunity to delve into and appreciate both historical and contemporary issues facing our Nation.

This program is not just reserved for high school students. "We the People . . ." recognizes that civic education should not wait until the students are almost able to vote. Teachers are encouraged to engage their students in simulated hearings at the elementary and middle school levels. In fact, more than 24 million students and 75,000 educators have participated in the "We the People" program since its inception in 1987. Throughout the years, several of my staff members have served as judges in the State competition.

This year, I am proud to inform the Senate that East Grand Rapids High School will represent Michigan in this prestigious event. These students demonstrated their exceptional command of issues relating to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in the state competition held in Lansing.

The "We the People . . ." program continues to be one of the best efforts to counteract the feelings of political apathy and cynicism amongst our Nation's youth. I wish the students at East Grand Rapids and all the students across the Nation who will be competing in this year's competition the best of luck. I know my colleagues will join me in recognizing the contributions the "We the People . . ." program has provided to students across the country.

CELEBRATING AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to join in commemorating African-American History Month and in

recognizing a crucial part of our diversity: the vast history and legacy that African Americans have contributed to the founding and building of our Nation.

In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which shortly after its creation, began a campaign to establish Negro History Week. In 1926, the second week of February was chosen to recognize the contributions of African Americans to American society. In 1976, this week of observance was expanded to a month and became African-American History Month.

Each year, the Association, now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, designates a theme for the Black History Month observance. This year's theme, "Before Brown, Beyond Boundaries, Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka" marks one of the most seminal moments in the fight for equal rights in this country—the Supreme Court's May 15, 1954 ruling that "[i]n the field of public education, the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place."

It was a ruling that was met with violent resistance and created enormous upheaval. A number of States adopted policies of "massive resistance" seeking to avert compliance with the Court's decision. Many went so far as to adopt resolutions calling for the State Government to interpose itself, *parens patriae*, between its citizens and the Federal government's efforts to impose desegregation.

But in the years that followed Brown, inspired by the framework for progress that the Court had provided, our civil rights leaders and the movement they created never backed down. They instead redoubled their heroic efforts often in the face of great risk of personal harm.

From the refusal by Rosa Parks to move to the back of a public bus, which ignited the Montgomery bus boycott, to efforts of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and many others to secure civil rights and desegregate public facilities, to efforts of the NAACP to clarify and expand the First amendment's protections related to free association, Brown's effects were felt across the Nation and beyond the sphere of public education.

And, of course, Thurgood Marshall—who I should note was born in Baltimore and attended Frederick Douglass High School—was at the center of these efforts. After graduating at the top of his class at Howard Law School, Marshall came back to Baltimore and, after working with NAACP to accomplish the landmark result in Brown led the legal fight thereafter to extend its precedent throughout the civil rights arena. After leaving the NAACP, Marshall put his convictions, determination, and legal prowess to work as a Federal judge, then Solicitor General, and ultimately the first African-American

Justice on the Supreme Court. There, he was, as Justice William Brennan remembered him, the "voice of authority . . . the voice of reason . . . [a]nd a voice with an unwavering message: that the Constitution's protections must not be denied to anyone and that the Court must give its constitutional doctrine the scope and sensitivity needed to assure that result."

At the beginning of the last century, our Nation was a vastly different place than it is today. The country was divided along racial lines and racism was accepted and institutionalized. African Americans were not allowed to vote, and the opportunities available to African Americans were few.

Today, thanks to the visions of a few and the sacrifices of many—and in significant part thanks to the lasting effects of Brown—that situation has changed. After much hardship, African Americans have made great strides in many areas and now participate in every sector of our society. Throughout the past 100 years, African Americans have made remarkable contributions to the Nation and the world as mathematicians, scientists, novelists, poets, politicians, and members of the armed services.

Through the lessons and struggles of the last century and the trying first few years of this century, Americans have shown the world how people of all races, colors, religions and nationalities create the fabric of our Nation, a fabric that is richer because of our differences. This month, we honor the special contribution African Americans have made to that fabric.

But there is much work left to be done. When in 1981 the City of Baltimore unveiled a statue to Marshall, the Justice told the gathered crowd "I just want to be sure that when you see this statue, you won't think that's the end of it. I won't have it that way. There's too much to be done." So we take the occasion of African-American History Month to celebrate the steps that we have taken toward equality, but also to remind ourselves of how far we have to go.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES: PRIVATE DWAYNE TURNER, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, U.S. ARMY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the heroic service of Pvt Dwayne Turner, 23, a combat medic in the United States Army, from Indianapolis, IN. Private Turner is a member of the U.S. Army's 3rd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, which came under grenade and small arms attack in Baghdad, Iraq on April 13, 2003.

According to U.S. Army Sgt Neil Mulvaney, the convoy was under a heavy amount of fire from Iraqi resistance forces. During the attack, a grenade struck the Humvee in which Private Turner was riding, seriously injuring both his legs with shards of shrapnel.

Ignoring his injuries, Private Turner bravely fulfilled his duty as a combat medic, selflessly putting the lives and comfort of others before his own. While treating 18 other soldiers' injuries, Private Turner was shot in the arm and leg before Sergeant Mulvaney had to physically restrain him to administer medical treatment for Private Turner's increasingly severe injuries.

When asked by the Associated Press to reflect upon the events of the attack, Private Turner humbly said, "I don't consider myself a hero at all. I just figured everybody was going to go home and nobody was going to die on my watch." However, BG Frank Hemlock's description of Private Turner's actions seems much more fitting: "He is a bona fide hero. He saved two lives without question and patched up 16 other lives."

In honor of the lives he saved through his unhesitating valor, Private Turner has been awarded the Silver Star, an award earned by nothing less than true sacrifice. May this award stand as a reminder to Private Turner that neither his comrades nor their grateful loved ones will soon forget his heroic actions.

As I reflect on Private Turner's service, I am reminded of a quote by Douglas MacArthur: "The soldier, above all other people prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." The United States will be eternally grateful for the courage and bravery Private Turner exhibited on the field of battle.

I know that all Hoosiers share my deep sense of pride in Private Turner and all of the men and women of our Armed Forces from Indiana who safeguard our country's freedom. My thoughts and prayers are with him as he continues his recovery and begins to make his new goal to become a civilian physician a reality.

INDIANA STATE TROOPER SCOTT A. PATRICK

Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to and honor the remarkable life of Scott A. Patrick, an Indiana State Trooper who was killed in the line of duty.

During the early morning of December 22, 2003, Trooper Patrick stopped to assist what appeared to be a stranded motorist. Shortly thereafter, Trooper Patrick was gunned down by the assailant and passed away. He was 27 years old.

Trooper Patrick graduated from Kankakee Valley High School in 1995 with an academic honors diploma. While in high school, Trooper Patrick excelled in football and wrestling, earning numerous awards. Those who knew him remember Trooper Patrick as intelligent, industrious, and kind. He attended the University of Southern Indiana on both academic and carpenter's scholarships. While at USI, Trooper Patrick was active in a variety of