

the networks and organizations that flow money, supplies, people, and information to the terrorists.

Here at home, the defense and intelligence capabilities of the Federal Government have been reorganized more sweepingly than at any point since the 1940s, to prepare them for this, the first war of the 21st century. We have created a Department of Homeland Security and are currently weighing how best to strengthen our intelligence services to deal with today's threats.

Finally, America has reaffirmed her commitment to liberty across the world. Despite the negative words of a few naysayers in high places, most people around the globe draw strength from America's commitment to lead the global war on terror. Over 30 nations joined us to liberate Afghanistan and Iraq. We have never wavered in our pledge to root out the terrorists and punish the states that may harbor them. The world has been reminded that America lives up to its word.

We have made great progress in 3 years, and will continue to make great progress. The president has told us that this will be a long struggle lasting years, perhaps decades. We cannot be sure when the war may be won. But we can be sure that it will.

For nearly 50 years, America grappled with another seemingly entrenched enemy—the Soviet Union and the spread of communism throughout the world. For much of the cold war, the struggle seemed to be without end. Some said it couldn't be won. Some said coexistence was the best America could hope for. Some even morally equated American freedom with Soviet tyranny, and refused to take sides.

But today, schoolchildren learn that the Soviet Union collapsed, rotten from the inside, as an inevitable fact. We take our victory in the Cold War for granted today, but it took decades of resolve, perseverance, and faith that our way of life was superior to totalitarianism. Well, the American way of freedom—freedom to worship, freedom to speak, freedom to vote—is still the best way of life on Earth.

Today's generation must maintain that same faith. We cannot lose on the battlefield. We cannot lose the war of ideals. As long as we maintain our will to win, we will prevail.

ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I cannot let September 11 pass without reflecting on this painful anniversary, and heralding the strength of our Nation in the three years that have passed since that terrible day.

Three years ago, a global network of terrorists attacked our country, taking the lives of nearly three thousand innocent men, women, and children. Today, we are still angered by the cruelty of these attacks. We are still awed by the courage of our first responders, and of the everyday Americans who were he-

roes on that day, whose acts of bravery and kindness were a source of solace for the Nation in the days after the attacks. Their strength became our strength, and with each passing day, and each passing year, our resolve to stop the forces of terror has only deepened.

This month, as the Senate moves forward to address the critically important recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission, we mark the third year that has passed since the attacks. But this anniversary is not simply about the events of a single day. It is about our continued sadness and grief, and our overwhelming pride in the way our Nation responded to the tragic events of that day. It is also about the abiding strength of our convictions; our deep and profound commitment to fighting the forces of terror, to making our families safer, and to preserving the freedoms at the heart of our national character.

We remember September 11 every day. On this anniversary, we simply share in that remembrance—both with other Americans, and with people around the world who stand with us in the fight against terrorism. Today I pay tribute to the lives we lost, and I honor the men and women across this country who give this Nation its greatest source of strength: our faith in our country, in our communities, and in each other.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

STAFF SERGEANT BRUCE J. POLLEMA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to SSG Bruce J. Pollema, a fellow Iowan originally from Hull, IA. The Iowa National Guard regrettably announced the death of Staff Sergeant Pollema when he was killed on August 27, 2004 along with fellow soldier, Spc. Dustin S. Colby, when their military motor vehicle rolled over into a ditch near Camp Dodge. Staff Sergeant Pollema was a heavy vehicle operator with the 2168th Transportation Company, based in Sheldon, IA. Staff Sergeant Pollema is survived by his wife, Teri Winter, father and mother, Wilmar and Betty Pollema, his older brother, Waylon, and his twin brother, Brandon. This brave soldier was thirty years old.

The family of Bruce Pollema issued the following statement in response to the news of their son's death: "Our hearts, minds, spirits and prayers are with the rest of the Troops and we wish them God speed. We will be there for them when they come back."

It is fitting that we should honor Staff Sergeant Pollema today for his service to our country. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family and friends. I know his memory will live on in the hearts of everyone he knew.

TIME IS RUNNING SHORT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in less than one week, the 1994 assault weap-

ons ban will expire and our Nation will once again be vulnerable to guns known to most in the law enforcement community as "the weapons of choice for criminals." If the ban is allowed to expire on September 13, potential criminals, including terrorists, could have access to 19 of the highest powered and most lethal firearms capable of being produced. These guns have no sporting purpose and no place on our streets.

In addition to banning 19 specific weapons, the current ban also includes prohibitions on semiautomatic weapons that incorporate a detachable magazine and two or more specific military features. These features include folding/telescoping stocks, protruding pistol grips, bayonet mounts, threaded muzzles or flash suppressors, barrel shrouds, or grenade launchers. Common sense should tell us that there is no reason for civilians to have easy access to guns with these features.

Los Angeles Chief of Police Bill Bratton has said the following about these weapons: "Since the Assault Weapons Ban was passed in 1994, we have seen a 66% decline in the frequency of assault weapon use in crime. Violent criminals love these weapons because they give them far more firepower than conventional weapons that greatly increases their capacity to kill. We cannot allow these weapons to get back into their hands."

It is important to listen to Chief Bratton and other law enforcement officials who support an extension of the assault weapons ban. The ban is important for the safety of all Americans but is especially important for the safety of our police officers.

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 ban for 10 years. Unfortunately, despite Senate passage of the amendment, it appears that this important gun safety law will be allowed to expire. The House Republican leadership opposes reauthorizing the law and President Bush, though he has said he supports it, has done little to keep the law alive.

Time is running short. We should support our law enforcement officers and reauthorize this common sense ban on assault weapons. Congress needs to act immediately to reauthorize the ban. I ask unanimous consent that a list of some of the organizations supporting this legislation be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the following material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

International Association of Chiefs of Police
Major Cities Chiefs Association
Police Foundation
Police Executive Research Forum
International Brotherhood of Police Officers
National Association of School Resource Officers
National Fraternal Order of Police
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association

National Black Police Association
 National League of Cities
 US Conference of Mayors
 National Association of Counties
 US Conference of Catholic Bishops
 National Education Association
 American Bar Association
 NAACP
 Americans for Gun Safety
 Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
 United with the Million Mom March
 Church Women United
 Episcopal Church, USA
 American Academy of Family Physicians
 American Public Health Association
 Family Violence Prevention Fund
 National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 National Network to End Domestic Violence
 National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
 National Association of Social Workers
 Physicians for a Violence Free Society
 American Association of Suicidology
 Mothers Against Violence in America
 Child Welfare League of America
 Alliance for Justice

PHARMACEUTICAL MARKET ACCESS AND DRUG SAFETY ACT OF 2004

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 2328, the Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act of 2004, and to explain my reasons for becoming a cosponsor of this bipartisan legislation, which was introduced by Senators DORGAN and SNOWE earlier this year. My decision to cosponsor this bill has come after serious and careful deliberation. I know that there are many who oppose the importation of prescription drugs, and I have carefully considered their arguments.

However, I have come to the conclusion that this bill can be helpful to ensuring that Americans have access to the drugs they need, with the peace of mind that the medications they are taking—or giving to a family member—are safe.

Mr. President, all of us are aware of the unfortunate news released over the last several weeks about the state of health care in our country. In many respects, we have the greatest health system in the world, but far too many Americans are unable to take advantage of this system. According to data released by the Census Bureau in August, 45 million Americans were without health insurance in 2003—an increase of 1.4 million over 2002. The primary reason for the continued increase in the number of uninsured is that employers are dropping their health coverage. That's right Mr. President, most of the newly-uninsured are working Americans.

Employers are not dropping health coverage out of malice they are doing so because they can no longer afford to provide this benefit. Year after year, health care costs increase by double digit percentages. The cost of employer-sponsored coverage increased by 14 percent in 2003. And year after year, the increase in the cost of prescription drugs stands out as a driver of the

overall cost increase. Over the last three years, drug costs have increased by over 50 percent.

Mr. President, I do not subscribe to or participate in the attacks on our prescription drug industry. The American drug industry is an extraordinary success story. As a result of the innovations that this industry has spawned, millions of lives have been improved and saved in our country and around the globe. Because of the importance of these medicines to our health and well-being, I have consistently supported sound public policies to help the industry to succeed.

These policies include authoring a successful statute to ensure that drug manufacturers receive appropriate incentives for ensuring that their products are safe and effective for children. I have also co-authored legislation to make sure that new drugs can more swiftly move through the approval pipeline and move quickly into the hands of the patients who need them. I have worked to create a fair balance between the need to protect drug patents for their full patent life, and the need to ensure that generic pharmaceuticals are able to come to market when that patent life has expired. I have always encouraged pharmaceutical research and development. I have also supported trade agreements to help open international markets for American pharmaceuticals. The American pharmaceutical industry is the best in the world, and it has succeeded, and will continue to succeed, in a competitive global environment.

Prescription drugs are an absolutely integral part of our health care system. I am proud that many of these medicines are made in my home state of Connecticut. But Mr. President, I am saddened that such a basic and necessary part of modern health care is becoming unaffordable for the average American—including many thousands of men, women, and children in Connecticut. Americans should not be put in the position of choosing whether to purchase groceries or medicine. And yet I have talked to far too many of my constituents who are faced with that choice every day.

We have an obligation to seek opportunities to lower drug costs. I was disappointed that such an opportunity was missed during our consideration of the Medicare Modernization Act. That law now prohibits the Federal government from using its purchasing power to bargain for lower drug prices. Such a measure is inconsistent with the economic principle of competition that is fundamental to our economy.

We are now faced with another opportunity to control prescription drug costs by allowing the importation of FDA-approved prescription drugs from Canada and other industrialized nations. I have long taken the position that drug importation should only be allowed if we can ensure that it is safe. I do not want affordable medicines to come at the cost of quality and safety

for American consumers. I have looked at every importation proposal with these priorities in mind.

Mr. President, Senate bill 2328, while not perfect, is a sensible approach to the issue of drug importation. I believe that it addresses the safety concerns that have been raised in the past, and in my discussions with opponents of this bill, I have yet to hear an argument that makes me believe that the medicines imported under this bill would be unsafe. In fact, I believe that it has the potential to be significantly safer for American consumers than the status quo. Currently, an American can easily go on the Internet and order drugs from another country. But there is no guarantee that these drugs are safe, and no way to prevent these drugs from entering the country. We are being flooded with counterfeit and compromised medicines, and people are being hurt.

Under the Dorgan-Snowe bill, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would be given the authority and resources necessary to make drug importation a safe proposition. Importers would be required to register with the FDA, so Americans can know where it is safe to purchase imported medicines.

Mr. President, with the issue of safety addressed, this really becomes an issue about what is best and what is fair for American consumers. At the moment, Americans pay significantly more for prescription drugs than those in other industrialized nations. Based on that fact, it is my belief that we should work toward a more open global market for prescription drugs, just as we do for countless other products that we trade internationally.

As I mentioned earlier, I am confident that the American drug industry can compete with that of any other nation. I am committed to ensuring that this continues to be true. We should, in my view, take steps to bring about fairer trade, freer trade, and safer trade for prescription medicines. This legislation represents one such step.

I intend to continue to talk to all interested parties about this bill. If safety concerns should arise in the future that have not been previously considered, I will do everything in my power to address them with the sponsors of this legislation. But it is past time for us to do something about the skyrocketing cost of prescription drugs, and I support this bill as a step in the right direction.

GARRETT LEE SMITH MEMORIAL ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere condolences to Senator SMITH and his family, as yesterday marked the 1-year anniversary of Garrett's passing and today would have been his 23rd birthday. The Smith family has endured a terrible tragedy, but has taken their loss and their pain and committed themselves to raising public awareness about youth suicide and