

U.S. SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2005.

Hon. TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore,
Washington, DC.

DEAR TED: At the request of Senator John Warner, Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, and Senator Carl Levin, Ranking Member of the Committee, and pursuant to section 3(b) of Senate Resolution 400 of the 94th Congress, as amended by Senate Resolution 445 of the 108th Congress, I request an additional five session days, ending October 28, 2005, on their behalf, to enable the Committee on Armed Services to complete its review of S. 1803, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM H. FRIST, M.D.,
Majority Leader.

HONORING WILLIAM A. KOCH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the late William A. Koch for his contributions to preserving the memory and legacy of President Abraham Lincoln's early life.

Mr. Koch was a man of vision, integrity, and generosity. Born in Santa Claus, IN, Mr. Koch worked throughout his life to establish the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in order to secure a place to preserve the legacy of Lincoln's years in Indiana.

William Koch headed the effort to incorporate the Nancy Hanks State Memorial into the National Park Service and led a campaign for the passage of a bill to establish the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Mr. Koch's efforts were so integral to the passage of the bill that he was invited to witness its signing by President Kennedy on February 19, 1962.

Today, visitors from across the country travel to Indiana where the Visitor Center and Living History Farm reveal the importance of Lincoln's Indiana years in his development from boyhood to the man he became. Without the dedication of William Koch, the preservation of Lincoln's early life would have been greatly diminished. Mr. Koch is survived by his wife Patricia Koch and his children, who now carry on his mission.

I am grateful for the achievements of Mr. William A. Koch and his contributions to this Nation. Through his relentless dedication, Mr. Koch has helped preserve the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln for future generations.

PREGUNTE, ESCUCHE, APRENDA UNDERAGE DRINKING PROGRAM

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to highlight the issue of underage drinking. The statistics are startling. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, on average, children first use alcohol around age 12, and research tells us that the majority of kids are obtaining the alcohol they drink from family and friends. According to Teenage Research Unlimited, 51 percent of 13- to 15-year-olds say they

will face a decision regarding alcohol in the next 3 months.

In my State of Colorado, the most recent data we have available reveals that underage drinking is on the rise. In 2003, 21 percent of children ages 12 to 17 reported having consumed alcohol in the past month—an increase of 3 percent from the previous year.

In addition, Colorado's Youth Risk Behavior Survey, completed by over 700 Colorado high school students, found that only 19 percent of students have never tried alcohol. Conversely, 29 percent reported binge drinking, defined as having consumed five or more alcoholic drinks on one or more occasions during the 30 days preceding the survey. Tragically, five college students died in Colorado last year due to binge drinking.

As policy makers but more importantly, as parents—these statistics should alarm us all. As the father of two teenage daughters, I worry because I know alcohol abuse is frequently a precursor to use and abuse of illegal drugs and other dangerous behavior. The good news is that parents are the leading influence on a child's decision not to drink alcohol. It is critical that parents and other trusted adults initiate conversations with children about underage drinking well in advance of the first time they are faced with a decision regarding alcohol.

Earlier this week, my colleagues from Congressional Hispanic Caucus teamed up with The Century Council and Nickelodeon to cast a spotlight on underage drinking in the Hispanic community.

We all know that the Hispanic population is growing in the United States. In Colorado, Hispanics represent almost 20 percent of the total population. Because the Hispanic community is a younger community, we have the ability and the obligation to influence the lives of these and all children, and to prevent them from engaging in dangerous activities such as underage drinking.

With the launch of Pregunte, Escuche, Aprende: Los niños y el alcohol no mezclan!, Hispanic parents and their middle-school-aged children will have access to critical information on the negative consequences of underage drinking. The program is designed to reduce underage drinking, particularly among children ages 9 to 13. The information is useful for parents, other trusted adults and kids, and includes strategies to help facilitate conversations about the dangers of underage drinking.

It was developed in collaboration with several national Hispanic organizations, including the League of United Latin American Citizens, LULAC, the Aspira Association, the National Latino Children's Institute, the National Hispanic Medical Association and MANA, among others, and is a culturally and linguistically adapted version of their Ask, Listen, Learn: Kids and Alcohol Don't Mix program.

I commend The Century Council and Nickelodeon for giving Hispanic parents and children across the Nation such a valuable communications tool to initiate those critically important discussions regarding alcohol.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

While leaving a bar on March 1, 2004, in Morgantown, WV, three men were attacked, two of whom are gay. Christopher Barnhart and his friends heard someone use homophobic language toward them. Barnhart was subsequently attacked and knocked to the ground, suffering two facial fractures. When Barnhart's friend tried to come to his assistance, he was attacked and suffered bruised ribs and a cut ear as a result.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LARRY W. PANKEY, JR.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I rise today to remember the life and sacrifice of a Coloradan who has made us all proud: SGT Larry W. Pankey, Jr., of Morrison, CO. Sergeant Pankey was a member of the 467th Engineer Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, based out of Mississippi.

Sergeant Pankey died earlier this month in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was only 34. He died serving this country with courage, self sacrifice and dignity, gifts which we as a nation are profoundly grateful to receive.

Sergeant Pankey is not alone in this sacrifice. Across Colorado and America, men and women have answered the call and risen on our behalf. They have not done so for glory or recognition, but because they share the fundamental belief that freedom and liberty are worth fighting for. They have come from farms and ranches in places like Colorado's eastern plains and apartment buildings in cities like Denver, from living rooms and bedrooms and classrooms across this country.

The sons and daughters of America have stood united to defend our way of

life and the values that we all share. The call to a service greater than their own self interest has motivated them to risk their lives. All too often, we are unable to repay them for the sacrifices that they make.

Next month we will recognize Veterans Day. It will be marked by patriotic speeches and parades, a solemn recognition of those veterans who are still with us and those servicemembers who have been lost. And rightfully so. But we should not lose sight of the fact that every day there are still families grieving and remembering.

To Sergeant Pankey's wife and daughter in Morrison and his mother in Louisiana, and all of the families and friends left behind in the wake of a soldier's death, we can only offer our humble thanks on behalf of this Nation. We are forever in your debt and will always remember the extraordinary price you have paid on our behalf by offering up your sons and daughters. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

With that in mind, I want to end with a quote from the Bible upon which I sometimes reflect when I am thinking about our men and women in uniform. Matthew 5:9 reminds us: "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

Right now across the world, the members of our Armed Forces like Sergeant Pankey stand watch on our behalf. They are these very peacemakers, and their place will always be reserved in our hearts.

ARCTIC REFUGE PROVISIONS IN BUDGET RECONCILIATION LEGISLATION

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, last month people from across the country converged on Washington to send a clear message to Congress in opposition to drilling for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Sadly, yesterday's action by the Energy and Natural Resources Committee flies in the face of that grassroots movement. And on top of this, the committee failed to accept commonsense amendments that would have required that drilling in the Arctic follow the same rules as drilling in all other wildlife refuges, insisted that oil taken from the refuge stay in the hands of Americans, and guaranteed what Senators have been told all along—that 50 percent of the revenues from leases would go to the Federal Treasury, despite public suggestions by Members of the Alaska delegation that the State would sue to get 90 percent of all revenues.

There is no doubt that as a nation, we face tough questions about our energy policy. Sacrificing one of America's greatest natural treasures, however, to access a supply of oil that may not last more than a year, wouldn't be available for many years to come, and would decrease gas prices by only a penny at its highest production, is simply not the answer. A responsible, well-

thought-out national energy policy that moves us away from our dependence on a finite resource such as oil is the answer, and I regret that we don't have such a policy. To support our energy needs, care for our citizens, encourage a vibrant economy, and meet our stewardship responsibilities to future generations, we must take a variety of steps, including investing in American ingenuity, advancing our commitment to conservation, and increasing our use of renewable sources of fuel.

As we now move from the committee's reconciliation recommendation to floor debate of the larger budget reconciliation package, I will work to make sure that we do not discard the legacy of protecting the Arctic Refuge that dates back to President Eisenhower in 1960.

NATIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, October 16–22 is National Safe Schools Week. School violence, or even the threat of school violence, in too many of our schools instills fear in our students, and limits their ability to learn. It also can threaten and intimidate teachers and make instruction more difficult.

National Safe Schools Week is intended to raise awareness of school safety issues and empower students, parents, teachers, and parents to do what they can to prevent violence in their schools. Congress should also do its part by passing common sense gun safety legislation and by funding important programs that help to reduce school violence.

According to 2003 statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 950,000 students take a weapon to school each month, resulting in more than 1,400,000 students being injured or threatened with a weapon during the school year. In addition, every month, an estimated 840,000 students feel too unsafe to go to school. This is a problem which left unaddressed will continue to hold children back from reaching their full educational potential.

Statistics cited by the PAX organization, one of the organizers of National Safe Schools Week, indicate that in 81 percent of the school shootings in our country, the attackers told other students of their plans prior to the attack. Further, students are responsible for tipping off school authorities in 93 percent of the cases where weapons are confiscated from students at school. To strengthen this fact, PAX created the Speak Up Campaign. The centerpiece of the campaign is a national hotline, 1-866-SPEAK-UP, where children and teenagers can call to anonymously report threats involving weapons at their school. Since the creation of the hotline in 2002, the Speak Up Campaign has received more than 7,000 calls which were then passed along to appropriate law enforcement officials.

School violence threatens to put our children's safety and ability to learn in

jeopardy. Our Nation's schools need our help to combat this ongoing problem. To start, we should adequately fund Federal grant programs like COPS. COPS hiring grants have been used to hire more than 6,500 school resource officers since 1999. These officers help ensure a safe environment in and around our schools and collaborate with the school community to more effectively deal with school violence issues.

We should also support common sense gun storage requirements to make it more difficult for children and teenagers to access guns and ammunition. Recently, I joined with 69 of my colleagues in voting for an amendment offered by Senator KOHL that would require licensed dealers, manufacturers, and importers to include a safe gun storage or gun safety device with every handgun they sell. Use of such storage devices could help prevent a child or teenager from acquiring a gun that they might use to injure or kill another student at school. Hopefully, Senator KOHL's amendment will become law.

School violence has always posed a threat to students and teachers, but lethal and easily concealable guns have escalated the problem. Gun violence, not only affects students at a particular school, it has a rippling effect on students at schools in the same county, State, and in some cases, the entire country. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting efforts to reduce the threat of violence, especially gun violence, to our schools.

CONTINUED JAPANESE BAN ON U.S. BEEF

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to express deep frustration over Japan's unwillingness to lift its ban on U.S. beef. My patience—and the patience of many of colleagues in this chamber—has run out. The time for talk and empty promises is over.

I have long been, and remain, a friend of Japan. I first visited that country many years ago as a student and was deeply touched by the kindness extended to me by the people of Japan. In over 30 years in Congress, I have worked hard to strengthen our trade and economic ties. I have watched proudly as the U.S.-Japan economic relationship has grown and prospered.

Times have not always been easy. I have engaged closely on U.S.-Japan issues through good times and through periods of great strain. But even in the most difficult times, I have made every effort to roll up my sleeves and work through problems in order to ensure that our trade relationship with Japan works for the people of Montana and the United States.

By and large, that relationship works, and it works well. In trade, one of our crowning achievements together has been the construction of a rules-based multilateral trading system—first through the General Agreement