

“What Happened to Public Law 108-183?” This law, codified in the Small Business Act, created the contracting preference for small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans. The article pointed out that many service-disabled veterans feel frustrated at the multiple-award contract regulations which undermine the weight of the congressionally established preference and preclude disabled veterans from obtaining set-aside multiple-award acquisitions.

The Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship has attempted to mitigate many of these problems. Back in 1994, the Federal Acquisition Streamlining Act included a change to the Small Business Act that created an exclusive reservation for small businesses consisting of all contracts valued at more than \$2,500 but not more than \$100,000. Federal agencies attempted to exempt themselves from this provision by regulation. In response, I inserted corrective language in S. 1375, the 50th Anniversary Small Business Administration Reauthorization Act. This act, passed unanimously by the Senate during the 108th Congress, included a provision to ensure that task orders on multiple award schedules and multiagency contracts valued at more than \$2,500 but not more than \$100,000 are reserved for small businesses.

This amendment builds on my prior efforts by establishing a congressional policy that each agency's orders placed under multiple awards contracts must meet statutory small business goals. To facilitate this policy, the amendment authorizes Federal agencies using defense contracting authorities to conduct small business set-aside competitions in the context of multiple-award contracts. My amendment also directs the SBA administrator to provide to my committee a comprehensive report on participation of small businesses in multiple-award contracting.

The measures adopted by the Senate through this amendment are only some of many steps and initiatives which my committee has been pursuing to increase the access of multiple-award contracts to small businesses. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting these efforts.

Mr. President; as chair of Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I rise today to address a bipartisan amendment to S. 1042, the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2006 from the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship concerning much needed improvements to the Small Business Innovation Research, SBIR, Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer, STTR, Program. Amendment No. 2531 is based on my original amendments S.A. 1536 and S.A. 1537 and builds on language reported by the Senate Armed Services Committee and on legislative initiatives proposed by the Small Business Committee's ranking member, Senator KERRY. I would like

to commend Senator KERRY, as well as Senators WARNER and LEVIN, the leaders of the Senate Armed Services Committee, for their bipartisan cooperation on the important subject of accelerating innovation and procurement of innovative technologies by the Federal Government. I also want to thank Dr. Charles Wessner and others at the National Academy of Sciences who have worked on a congressionally authorized study of the SBIR program, the Small Business Technology Council, the Association for Manufacturing Technology, and numerous representatives of Federal agencies, small businesses, and representatives of large prime contractors for the insights into the work of the SBIR and the STTR programs which they have provided to my committee over the years.

Today, the Federal Government spends approximately \$2.3 billion on phase I and phase II awards for the SBIR and the STTR programs, with \$2.2 billion spent through the SBIR awards to small businesses. The Department of Defense is the major participant in this program, accounting for approximately \$1.1 billion in SBIR spending and approximately \$50 million in STTR spending. These funds provide a substantial stimulus to the American innovation system, and it is the task of this Congress to ensure that these funds are wisely spent. A key part of this effort is strengthening the existing science and research requirements for the small business research and development programs. This amendment directs the Department of Defense to base its SBIR and STTR research and development priorities on the Department's most current Joint Warfighting Science and Technology Plan, the Defense Technology Area Plan and the Basic Research Plan and to solicit input from program management officials.

In addition to the phase I and phase II awards, the Department of Defense awarded over \$456 million in phase III contracts in fiscal year 2004. But the need for innovative technologies in our defense procurement is far greater. The SBIR and the STTR authorities enable contracting officers to quickly buy high-tech products and services for our warfighters. Unfortunately, the commercialization rate from research and development to product acquisition has been hampered by poor commercialization planning and increasing SBIR program administration costs. Since 1998, Congress and the Department of Defense have sought to increase commercialization but without much progress. To address this problem, my amendment authorizes a Commercialization Pilot Program at the Department of Defense and component military departments. Under this program, the Secretary of Defense and the military Secretaries would be required to identify SBIR programs with potential for accelerated transition into the acquisition process. The amendment authorizes the use of one percent of SBIR

phase I and phase II funds for administrative expenses of this pilot. Congress will be kept abreast of this pilot through detailed evaluative reports.

As cochair of the Senate Task Force on Manufacturing, I have been concerned about the deteriorating manufacturing base of our Nation and especially the impact of this trend on the defense industrial base. To stem this decline, President George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13329, Encouraging Innovation in Manufacturing, in February 2004. This order directs Federal agencies which participate in the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program to give “high priority” to manufacturing-related research and development projects to the extent permitted by law. The amendment incorporates this Executive order into law and directs the Small Business Administration and all other relevant agencies to fully implement its tenets.

Finally, the amendment will expand the ability of Federal agencies and prime contractors to use phase II and phase III awards under SBIR and STTR for testing and evaluation of innovative technologies developed by small businesses for use in technical or weapons systems. Insertion of SBIR or STTR technologies into large, integrated systems is often not possible without significant testing efforts. By clarifying that either phase II or phase III may be used for these purposes, the amendment will provide additional incentives to agency program managers and to large systems integrators to commercialize the fruits of the SBIR and the STTR research.

Our Nation's small businesses are also our Nation's innovators. They secure approximately 13 times more patents than large businesses. I urge this Congress to support in conference my measure for keeping America secure in war and in competitive internationally.

ANTI-SEMITIC STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF IRAN

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to register my outrage against a series of vehemently anti-Semitic comments made by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. These remarks, all of them vile and baseless, should be condemned by the Senate. Let me describe some of these remarks for the RECORD.

At a conference in Tehran on October 26, President Ahmadinejad said, “Israel must be wiped off the map . . . The Islamic world will not let its historic enemy live in its heartland.”

Then, on December 8, he continued his assault, saying “Some European countries insist on saying that Hitler killed millions of innocent Jews in furnaces . . . Although we don't accept this claim . . . If the Europeans are honest they should give some of their provinces in Europe—like in Germany,

Austria or other countries—to the Zionists and the Zionists can establish their state in Europe.”

And, just yesterday, President Ahmadinejad claimed that “They have fabricated a legend under the name ‘Massacre of the Jews’, and they hold it higher than God himself, religion itself and the prophets themselves”

Mr. President, I do not even know where to begin. Insidious rhetoric such as this is designed to do nothing other than stir hatred and incite hostility.

I have walked the grounds at Auschwitz. I have seen the crematoria. To claim that one of the greatest tragedies in the history of humanity is merely a fabrication to advance a political agenda is simply beyond the pale. But what is worse is that these comments are not isolated. They are a part of persistent, state-sponsored anti-Semitism that is now commonplace in the administration of President Ahmadinejad.

On the eve of the elections in Iraq, one of the greatest democratic milestones in the history of the modern Middle East, I hope that we can work to move past this gross intolerance on the part of the Iranian President.

FREE GUN LOCKS FROM PROJECT CHILDSAFE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, tragedies involving children and guns continue to repeat themselves with alarming frequency around the country. According to local police, at least five Detroit children have been accidentally shot and killed this year alone. Just last week a three year old boy in Detroit nearly lost his life when he accidentally shot himself in the chest with his father’s gun.

Following that shooting, Detroit police spokesman James Tate said, “It appears this could have been prevented if a gun lock was on and the gun was secured. It’s unfortunate that we end up responding to these types of scenes when there are free gun locks readily available around the city.”

One source of free gun locks is Project ChildSafe, the Nation’s largest firearm safety education program. This program has provided more than 35 million “firearm safety kits” to gun owners around the country, including more than 517,500 in Michigan this year. Each firearm safety kit includes a free gun lock and materials to educate firearms owners about safe gun storage practices.

Free gun locks from Project ChildSafe are available year round through many local police departments. According to Project ChildSafe, if a local law enforcement agency does not have safety kits available for residents who request them, that agency may contact their governor’s office to receive a supply. In addition, Project ChildSafe representatives attend a number of major public events including State fairs, sportsmen’s festivals, and community safety days to dis-

tribute firearm safety kits. More information on safe gun storage practices and how to acquire a free gun lock can be found on the Project ChildSafe website at www.projectchildsafesafe.org.

The Project ChildSafe website also includes information concerning a number of safe gun storage practices to reduce the risk of unintentional shooting. In addition to using a gun lock, Project ChildSafe suggests locking up ammunition in a location separate from the firearm. Statistics show this additional precaution can have a dramatic impact on the risk of unintentional shooting. A study published earlier this year in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that the risk of unintentional shooting or suicide by minors using a gun is reduced by as much as 61 percent when ammunition in the home is locked up. Simply storing ammunition separately from the gun reduces such occurrences by more than 50 percent.

Common sense alone tells us that safe firearms storage practices, including the use of gun locks, reduces the risk of accidental shootings. I hope that firearms owners in Michigan and around the country join those who have already chosen to take advantage of the free gun locks and educational materials provided by Project ChildSafe so that fewer children are killed and seriously injured in accidental shootings.

ELECTIONS IN IRAQ

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, all Americans are inspired by the way the Iraqi people once again demonstrated their courage, dedication, and resilience by going to the polls to place their future—and the future of their country—squarely on the side of democracy.

Every American salutes our men and women in uniform who are serving so ably under enormously difficult circumstances, and whose dedication and sacrifice have made today’s elections possible. More than 2,100 of America’s finest soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq and we owe them and their loved ones an immense debt of gratitude. We all hope that successful elections will give the Iraqi people new confidence that a brighter future lies ahead.

Successful elections can and should be the turning point we’ve been waiting so long for, when our troops can begin to come home. As our Ambassador to Iraq, Zalmay Khalizad, said today, because the training of the Iraqi security forces is proceeding, “some draw down can begin in the aftermath of the elections.”

An open-ended commitment of America’s military forces does not serve America’s interest and it does not serve Iraq’s interest either. If America want a new Iraqi government to succeed, we need to let Iraqis take responsibility for their own future.

MONTREAL CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, one of the most important issues facing mankind is the problem of human-induced climate change. The broad consensus within the scientific community is that global warming has begun, is largely the result of human activity, and is accelerating.

Global warming will result in more extreme weather, increased flooding and drought, disruption of agricultural and water systems, threats to human health and loss of sensitive species and ecosystems. We must take action now to minimize these effects, for the sake of our children, our grandchildren, and future generations.

Over the last 2 weeks, 189 countries met in Montreal to discuss the important issue of global climate change. These countries met in a spirit of cooperation and in hopes of agreeing on the next steps for reducing harmful emissions of greenhouse gases. These countries, including the United States, have all already agreed, under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to take steps to “prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” These past 2 weeks were a test of their resolve.

Unfortunately the United States, led by the Bush administration delegation, attempted to slow, stall, and block the progress of these talks. This is unconscionable, given that the United States is the largest single emitter of greenhouse gases. Fortunately the U.S. negotiators’ efforts were not completely successful, and an agreement was reached to have additional talks commencing next year. Although that is a small step and not nearly enough, it is vastly preferable to the outcome this administration wanted, which amounts to no action at all.

In advance of the Montreal meetings, I joined with 23 other Senators in sending a letter to President Bush, reminding the administration of its legal obligation to participate in the Montreal talks. Unfortunately, but perhaps not surprisingly, the administration disregarded this obligation.

A decision to block further discussions on missions reduction commitments cannot be viewed as consistent with the obligations of the United States under the treaty.

While the U.S. has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol despite the fact that 157 nations have become parties, actions to block those countries from moving forward with additional commitments under that Protocol is also inconsistent with the U.S. Framework Treaty obligations.

In our letter to the President, we noted that just this year the Senate, by a vote of 53-44, approved a resolution calling for mandatory limits on greenhouse gases within the United States. We wrote this letter and distributed it to interested parties at the negotiations to ensure that other countries