

many parents struggling to make ends meet and to provide for their children after the plant closes and the jobs go to other countries. Congress can and should do more to support these hard-working Americans and their employers. These are the people who are bearing the brunt of the bad trade agreements and other policies that have encouraged companies to close or to leave the United States.

In response to this crisis, this week I am introducing a series of bills intended to support American companies and American workers. These measures alone will not solve this problem, but I believe that they represent a first step in helping to save a core sector of our economy.

My first proposal would set some minimum standards for future trade agreements into which our country enters. It is a break with the so-called NAFTA model and instead advocates the kinds of sound trade policies that will spur economic growth and sustainable development. The major trade agreements into which our country has entered in recent years have resulted in a race to the bottom in labor standards, environmental standards, health and safety standards, in nearly every aspect of our economy. A race to the bottom is a race in which even the winners lose. We should ensure that future trade agreements do not continue down this perilous road.

The principles set forth in this resolution are straightforward and achievable. These principles include: calling for enforceable worker protections, preserving the ability of the United States to enact and enforce its own trade laws, ensuring that foreign investors are not provided with greater rights than those provided under U.S. law, providing that food entering into our country meets domestic food safety standards, and preserving the ability of Federal, State, and local governments to maintain essential public services and to regulate private sector services in the public interest.

Mr. President, my second bill, the Buy American Improvement Act, focuses on the Federal Government's responsibility to support domestic manufacturers and workers. The Buy American Act of 1933 is supposed to ensure that the Federal Government supports domestic companies and workers by buying American-made goods. This is an important law, but it contains a number of loopholes that make it too easy for Government agencies to buy foreign-made goods.

The Buy American Improvement Act would make it harder to waive the Buy American Act. We should ensure that the Federal Government makes every effort to give Federal contracts to companies that will perform the work domestically. We should also ensure that certain types of industries do not leave the United States completely, thus making the Federal Government dependent on foreign sources for goods, such as plane or ship parts, that our

military may need to acquire on short notice.

My bill would also, for the first time, make the Buy American requirement applicable to Congress. I believe that Congress should lead by example and comply with the Buy American Act. And, in an effort to bring transparency and accountability to the process, it would require agencies to report on their purchases of foreign-made goods.

It is bad enough that our trade policies have encouraged companies to shut down or relocate overseas. Many of the same flawed trade agreements that have sent American jobs overseas have also weakened the Buy American Act.

Last year, the ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Mr. LIEBERMAN and I asked the GAO to study the effect of trade agreements on domestic source requirements such as those contained in the Buy American Act. That study, which was released this week, found that the Government is required to give favorable treatment to certain goods from a total of 45 countries as a result of 7 trade agreements and 21 reciprocal defense procurement agreements.

In other words, at the same time that Congress has been paying lip service to the Buy American Act, it has been carving out exceptions to that Act in our trade and defense procurement agreements. It is time for Congress to step up and support efforts to strengthen, not undermine, the Buy American Act.

In addition, Congress must make every effort to help workers who have lost their jobs as a result of our trade policies. Many of these workers require retraining for new jobs that will enable them to support their families.

My third bill, the Community-Based Health Care Retraining Act, would authorize a demonstration project to provide grants to community-based coalitions, led by local workforce development boards, to retrain unemployed workers who wish to obtain new jobs in the health care professions. The funds could be used for a variety of purposes—from increasing the capacity of our schools and training facilities, to providing financial and social support for workers who are in retraining programs. This bill allows for flexibility in the use of grant funds, because I believe that communities know best about the resources they need to run an efficient program.

By providing targeted assistance to train laid-off workers who wish to obtain new jobs in the fast-growing health care sector, we can both help unemployed Americans and improve the availability and quality of health care in our communities.

I hope that my colleagues will support each of my proposals, and I look forward to working with Senators on both sides of the aisle to find additional ways to support our domestic manufacturers and their employees. I

know that there are towns like Florence, WI, all over the country, and I hope that we will finally act this Congress to support the jobs that are the bedrock of those communities.

ANTITRUST INVESTIGATIVE IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2005

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Antitrust Investigative Improvements Act of 2005, a bill I am cosponsoring with Senators DEWINE AND LEAHY. This bill will give the antitrust criminal enforcers at the Department of Justice a vital tool to investigate, detect, and prevent antitrust conspiracies. It will allow the Justice Department, upon a showing of probable cause to a Federal judge, authority to obtain a wiretap order for a limited time period to monitor communications between those suspected of engaging in illegal antitrust conspiracies.

The current Federal criminal code lists over 150 predicate offenses for which the Justice Department may obtain a wiretap during the course of a criminal investigation. These offenses include such basic white collar crimes such as mail fraud, wire fraud, and bank fraud. However, under current law, if the Government is investigating a criminal antitrust conspiracy such as a scheme to fix prices to consumers, the Government cannot obtain a wiretap of the suspected conspirators. This inability to obtain wiretaps unquestionably severely handicaps the detection and prevention of such conspiracies. Only with the consent of a member of the conspiracy who has already agreed to cooperate with the Government may the Government surreptitiously record the meetings of the conspirators.

There is no logical basis to exclude criminal antitrust violations from the list of predicate offenses for a wiretap. A criminal antitrust offense such as price fixing is every bit as serious—and causes every bit as much financial loss to its victims—as other white collar crimes such as mail fraud or wire fraud. A price-fixing conspiracy raises prices to consumers, stealing hard-earned dollars from citizens as surely as does as a salesman promoting a bogus investment from a “boiler room” or, indeed, a thief with a gun. Moreover, by its secret nature as an agreement among competitors, such a conspiracy is likely harder to detect than a fraudulent offering over the phone or through the mail. A properly issued wiretap, therefore, is even more necessary to detect criminal antitrust conspiracies than other white collar offenses.

Detecting, preventing, and punishing criminal antitrust offenses are one of the principal missions of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division. Such offenses are punished severely with corporations facing fines of up to \$100 million and individuals subject to jail terms of up to 10 years for each offense.

Indeed, last year we passed legislation raising criminal penalties to these new levels. Yet despite the damage these conspiracies do to the economy and individual consumers, our law enforcement agencies lack the one vital tool essential to uncover these secret conspiracies—the ability to obtain a wiretap to monitor communications between the suspected conspirators upon a showing of probable cause. This legislation will remedy this defect by granting to our law enforcement officials this necessary means to protect consumers and end illegal antitrust conspiracies.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF ARNOLD SCHOFIELD

• Mr. BROWBACK. Mr. President, I acknowledge the retirement of Arnold Schofield who is completing 25 years of service as site historian at Fort Scott National Historic Site, Fort Scott, KS.

Completing a 43-year career in Federal service, he remains passionate about American cultural and military history. Arnold is highly respected for his extraordinary knowledge and his ability to bring history to life. Those fortunate to have heard his presentations throughout Kansas and the Midwest were left with a greater appreciation of the area's rich past and a desire to learn even more. For decades, Arnold was a familiar figure in Fort Scott's countless tourism efforts and became one of the region's most recognizable and appreciated figures.

While the loss at Fort Scott National Historic Site will be significant, Arnold will continue his public service near Pleasanton, KS, as site administrator at Mine Creek Battlefield State Historic Site. He looks forward to the challenge of preserving, protecting and interpreting the site of the largest Civil War battle in Kansas and one of the largest cavalry engagements of the Civil War.

He will take with him rich memories of his earlier service at Harpers Ferry National Historic Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina.

I welcome this opportunity to thank and congratulate Mr. Schofield on his retirement from over four decades of Federal service and extend to him our best wishes in his new position at Mine Creek Battlefield.●

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF LEXINGTON CATHOLIC GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I pay tribute and congratulate Lexington Catholic Girl's Basketball Team, the Lady Knights, who were recently ranked No. 3 in *ihigh.com*'s national ratings, and No. 5 in *USA Today*'s

Super 25. The Lady Knights are currently undefeated within their region and will go on to next month to compete within the State for the State championship title. Their recent performance has given Kentucky reason to be proud.

Led by coach Greg Todd, the Ladies Knights are currently ranked No. 1 within their region with a record of 22 to 1. In doing so they have beaten the four highest-ranked regional teams in the Louisville Courier-Journal newspaper's Litkenhous Ratings by a combined 70 points.

I cannot think of a much better group of young people to represent Kentucky. As a former Major League Baseball player, I appreciate their athletic excellence. As a U.S. Senator from Kentucky, I appreciate the dignity with which they played.

I am proud to read the names of these teammates into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today. They are Adaeze Azubuike, Anaris Sickles, Briana Green, Keyla Snowden, Katie Scordo, Rebecca Rhule, Lauren Ramsey, Nikki Davis, Ktie Frueh, Chelsey Johnson, Kellie Cash, Natalie Novosel, Ashley Devers, Lesley Server, Elizabeth Elam, Shannon Novosel, and Katie Kissner.

The citizens of Kentucky should be proud of these young ladies. Their example of dedication and hard work should be an inspiration to the entire State. I wish them continued success both on and off the basketball court.●

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NASA/NORFOLK STATE UNIVERSITY PRE-SERVICE CONFERENCE

• Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the outstanding growth and service of the NASA Langley Pre-Service Teacher Program. This year's national conference, which is being held this week from February 17 through 19, 2005, will mark the 10 year anniversary of this highly successful educational program.

The Pre-Service Teacher Program is a project run through the cooperation of NASA's Langley Office of Education and Norfolk State University's School of Science & Technology. Its mission is to provide Pre-Service teachers and faculty members opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skill in teaching mathematics and science using technology at the elementary and middle school levels.

Since its humble beginnings as a small regional conference held in Hampton, VA, in 1995, the Pre-Service Teacher Program has grown into a large national conference annually held in Alexandria, VA. The program began with only 25 member institutions representing 10 States and now boasts membership of over 104 institutions representing 31 States. It is important to recognize that of the 104 member institutions, there are representatives from Hispanic Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The Pre-Service Teacher Program's continued growth led to the addition of a Pre-Service Teacher Institute in 1998. This 2-week long immersion program allows more pre-service teachers the opportunity to interface with NASA personnel, tour Langley's facilities, and learn ways to incorporate NASA's cutting-edge research into lesson plans for elementary and middle school students. As the success of this program has grown, the Pre-Service Teacher Program expanded in 2000 to seven sites beyond Hampton, VA, and, with time, I am sure it will continue to grow.

I congratulate the Pre-Service Teacher Program's tremendous growth and impact on Virginia classrooms and schools across the Nation. They are to be commended for their hard work and attention to our Nation's future: our children. I wish them continued success, keep fighting and keep succeeding.●

CONGRATULATING HENRY HERZING

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise to extend my congratulations to Henry Herzing, founder and President of Herzing Colleges, for providing 40 years of progressive, career-focused education that has prepared a diverse student population to meet the needs of employers in technology, business, health care, design and public safety.

Since the first campus opened in Milwaukee, WI in 1965 as a computer programming school, Herzing College has grown to include six campuses in the U.S. along with other affiliated colleges, five of which are in Canada.

During these 40 years of expanding its campuses and diversifying its educational programs, Herzing College has also raised its level of credentials from diploma to associate of science, to most recently, Bachelor of Science degrees. In recent years, Herzing College has also brought its high-quality programs to the online environment to allow students in other locations to upgrade their career potential.

I congratulate Henry Herzing and all his faculty and staff for 40 years of "student-centered" education and urge him to continue to play an important role in the higher education community in the United States.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.