

by myself, Senator SMITH, Senator BAUCUS, and Senator SANTORUM to help some of the world's poorest countries sustain vital export industries and promote economic growth and political stability.

The Tariff Relief Assistance for Developing Economies Act, TRADE, of 2005 will provide duty-free and quota-free benefits for garments and other products similar to those afforded to beneficiary countries under the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, AGOA. The countries covered by this legislation are the 14 Least Developed Countries, LDCs, as defined by the United Nations and the U.S. State Department, which are not covered by any current U.S. trade preference program: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Kiribati, Laos, Maldives, Nepal, Samoa, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and Yemen. Given the recent tsunami disaster, the bill includes a special emergency trade provision to assist Sri Lanka in its rebuilding efforts.

The beneficiary countries of this legislation are among the poorest countries in the world. Nepal has per capita income of \$240. Unemployment in Bangladesh stands at 40 percent. Approximately 36 percent of Cambodia's population lives below the poverty line. Each country faces critical challenges in the years ahead including poor health care, insufficient educational opportunities, high HIV/AIDS rates, and the effects of war and civil strife. The United States must take a leadership role in providing much-needed assistance to the people of these countries.

Consequently, Senator SMITH and I have worked closely together over the past few years to push for substantial increases in our foreign aid budget. We recognize that helping developing countries rise from poverty is not only a moral obligation, but a key component in our fight against terror. Yet humanitarian and development assistance should not be the sum total of our efforts to put these countries on the road to economic prosperity and political stability. Indeed, the key for sustained growth and rising standards of living will be the ability of each of these countries to create vital export industries to compete in a free and open global marketplace.

We should help these countries help themselves by opening the U.S. market to their exports. Success in that endeavor will ultimately allow these countries to become less dependent on foreign aid and allow the United States to provide assistance to countries in greater need.

The garment industry is a key part of the manufacturing sector in some of these countries. In Nepal, the garment industry is entirely export-oriented and accounts for 40 percent of the foreign exchange earnings. It employs over 100,000 workers—half of them women—and sustains the livelihood of over 350,000 people. The United States

is the largest market for Nepalese garments and accounts for 80 to 90 percent of Nepal's total exports every year. In Cambodia, approximately 250,000 Cambodians work in the garment industry supporting approximately 1 million dependents. The garment industry accounts for more than 90 percent of Cambodia's export earnings. In Bangladesh, the garment industry accounts for 75 percent of export earnings. The industry employs 1.8 million people, 90 percent of whom are women, and sustains the livelihoods of 10 to 15 million people.

Despite the poverty seen in these countries and the importance of the garment industry and the U.S. market, they face some of the highest U.S. tariffs in the world, averaging over 15 percent. In contrast, countries like Japan and our European partners face tariffs that are nearly zero. On top of this, there is increasing concern that the removal of quotas on textile and apparel articles on January 1, 2005, will severely harm their garment export industries in LDC countries as U.S. importers will shift their orders to China, India and other suppliers with cheaper labor markets.

Millions of jobs could be lost, threatening economic growth and political stability. In those countries without a viable garment industry—such as Afghanistan and East Timor—the removal of quotas will severely impact the opportunities to develop industries, employment, and expanded foreign investment.

Surely we can do better. This legislation will help these countries compete in the U.S. market and let their citizens know that Americans are committed to helping them realize a better future for themselves and their families. And the impact on U.S. jobs will be minimal. Currently, the beneficiary countries under this legislation account for only 4 percent of U.S. textile and apparel imports, compared to 24 percent for China, and 72 percent for the rest of the world. These countries will continue to be small players in the U.S. market, but the benefits of this legislation will have a major impact on their export economies.

At a time when U.S. standing is at an alltime low in some countries, we need legislation such as this to show the best of America and American values. It will provide a vital component to our development strategy and add another tool to the war on terror. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOANNE BENSON

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me today in honoring the public life of a Minnesota leader in public affairs and public education, Joanne Benson. Some of us will recognize her as a former lieutenant Governor of Minnesota, or as a Minnesota State Senator. But she is known to hundreds of teachers and children as an educator of distinction, imagina-

tion, and courage. This month marks her retirement as the Chief Education Officer of the Minnesota Business Academy charter high school in our capital city of St. Paul.

Joanne Benson is considered by friends and colleagues to be one of the most conscientious and hardworking women in Minnesota—a considerable distinction. She was born in Le Sueur, an agricultural community, where she learned early the virtue of service to family and community. She and her husband, Robert, are the parents of two accomplished adult children, for whom education is both a cherished value and a professional calling. Her grandchildren are blessed to have the benefit of her loving example and guidance.

Minnesota's historic leadership in education proudly points to Joanne's degree from St. Cloud State University, and her eventual assistant professorship in the University's College of Education. From this service, she went on to become a Minnesota State senator from the St. Cloud region that she calls her home. Her work on behalf of education policy and community safety brought her to the attention of Gov. Arne Carlson, whom she served with distinction as lieutenant Governor from 1995 to 1999.

The State of Minnesota was to have yet greater service from Joanne, when at the end of the Carlson administration she became the president of the nascent Minnesota Business Academy, a business immersion charter high school in downtown St. Paul. MBA serves some of our State's most talented and challenged students. The school is the first in the Nation to be sponsored by a local Chamber of Commerce and is nationally noted for its Star Tracks initiative, teaching and certifying students in the personal traits and behaviors essential to success in the business workplace.

With the people of Minnesota, I ask this Chamber to join in celebrating the life and service of Joanne Benson, a woman of great humor and patience, intelligence and grace, as she takes a well-earned retirement from the profession of education.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### CHARLES W. SEDGWICK

• Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, Mr. Charles W., Bill, Sedgwick is retiring after more than 40 years of celebrated service with the Food and Drug Administration. His career began on June 7, 1964, as an investigator for the Kansas City district. From beginning to end, Bill sharpened his skills through work performed in a variety of locations; Kansas City, Omaha, Washington DC, Dallas, and Cincinnati. His dream was fulfilled, with the help of countless mentors and friends, as he began as the Kansas City district director in June of 2000.

Highlights of his work include cases involved with filth and quack drugs; instruction presented on Law and Evidence to the Southwest and Southeast Regions; work on criminal cases involving illegal distribution of steroid and other enhancement drugs; work with other Federal agents and the U.S. Attorney to prepare search warrants and collect undercover evidence for presentation to the grand jury; development of significant case laws which permitted not just FDA, but other Federal agencies to charge defendants with defrauding the Government; a commissioner's commendation for critical work performed with State partners to improve FDA's relationship working particularly in Texas and New Mexico; criminal investigative work in Cincinnati that resulted in the indictment, prosecution and prison terms of seven defendants involved in a major criminal enterprise which produced over 200 million pounds of phony orange juice; receipt of the FDA Award of Merit, 2002, and the ORA Quality of Worklife Award, 2003, for his leadership in Kansas City.

After his retirement, Bill intends to spend time with his family, doing anything his wife, Suzanne, tells him to do. He plans to oversee church construction projects, remodel old houses and travel with his wife.●

#### JOE L. TILGHMAN

● Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, Joe Tilghman has served the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, in a senior field leadership position in a career spanning nearly the entire period of enactment of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Mr. Tilghman is retiring on January 3, 2005 after 37 years of distinguished Federal service.

Mr. Tilghman assumed leadership of CMS' Kansas City regional office in 1994, following nearly 15 years as the deputy regional administrator. As regional administrator, he has been responsible for the Federal administration of the Medicare and Medicaid programs to approximately 4 million beneficiaries residing in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Prior to joining CMS, then the Health Care Financing Administration, in 1978 he worked in Social and Rehabilitative Services and the Bureau of Health Insurance.

During Mr. Tilghman's tenure as regional administrator, he led many CMS efforts that impacted the lives of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries nationwide. Of particular note, Mr. Tilghman:

Lead CMS' Flu 2000 Campaign from 1993 to 1999;

Lead CMS' Screening Mammography Campaign from 1999 to the present, exceeding Government Performance and Results Act, GPR, targets in each of these years;

Established the CMS field National Medicare Education Program, NMEP, operation;

Enforced the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act,

HIPAA, insurance provisions nationally in all States that are not in substantial compliance;

Conducted and was personally involved in a credit "CMS 101" course at the University of Kansas, the only one its kind in the Nation; and

Participated in a town hall meeting in Liberty, MO with President Bush to promote the new Medicare prescription drug cards.

In recognition of his many significant contributions, Mr. Tilghman received the Meritorious Executive Rank Award in 2000. This award may be received by only five percent of those persons in career Senior Executive Service, SES.

Mr. Tilghman served his country admirably as an Army pilot in Vietnam where he reached the rank of captain as a fixed wing and helicopter pilot. He married JoAnne Hardy in 1966 and is currently planning many travel adventures with her in his retirement. Mr. and Mrs. Tilghman have two daughters, Stephanie and Abigail, and are the proud grandparents of Ethan and Holly. Mr. Tilghman enjoys reading history books, hiking in the Colorado mountains, white water rafting, canoeing and skiing. He recently fulfilled a life-long dream by climbing to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE DAHL ARTS CENTER

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Dahl Arts Center in Rapid City, SD for all that it does to expand access to the arts and theatre to the entire Rapid City region. This corner stone of the Rapid City community has cultivated contemporary visual arts, community theater, and arts education since 1974, when Mr. and Mrs. Art Dahl bequeathed a generous gift to the Rapid City Arts Council. Not only has the Dahl Arts Center provided a forum for South Dakota artists to display their works and talents, but the center's free art galleries and art education classrooms provide the Rapid City community and its visitors the opportunity access our shared artistic heritage.

The Dahl Arts Center is one of a dozen free attractions on Rapid City's Star Tour. The Center also houses a 200 foot oil-on-canvas mural painted by Bernard P. Thomas. This cycloramic mural depicts 200 years of American history and is enhanced by a taped narration and special lighting effects. A large special viewing room was built to house this epic creation and has become a great attraction for visitors of all ages. The Dahl also houses two galleries that feature paintings, crafts, sculptures and original prints selected from the works of regional artists. For the past 30 years, the Dahl has been a wonderful venue to enjoy a variety of art works from people of all ages and talents.

I am very pleased that Rapid City has partnered with the Dahl Arts Cen-

ter to expand this facility, double the seating capacity in its performance theater, expand space for education, rehearsals and meetings, create a children's education gallery and library, and provide climate-controlled space for the Dahl's permanent collection. Rapid City's generous financial commitments combined with the \$2 million in private donations and pledges that have been collected thus far provide the bulk of the funding required for the Dahl Arts Center's expansion. I was pleased to work with my colleagues in the Senate to secure Federal funding of \$250,000 to assist in the expansion effort of the Dahl Arts Center. When completed, this addition will ensure that the Dahl Arts Center will continue to serve as a cultural arts center for generations to come. All of South Dakota benefits from the continued growth of the Dahl Arts Center and its excellent programs.●

#### HONORING THE FISHBACK FAMILY

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I am proud to rise today to commend the Fishback family of Brookings, SD for its outstanding support of the arts. Van Fishback, who serves as president of the recently renamed First Bank and Trust in Brookings, and Robert Fishback, who serves as bank chairman of the board, have demonstrated their leadership in this area by helping to cultivate music and the performing arts in Brookings and the South Dakota State University community.

First Bank and Trust and the Fishback family were recently recognized by the State of South Dakota for their contributions when they were selected as recipients of the 2005 Governor's Award for Outstanding Support of the Arts by an Organization or Business. This award recognizes the outstanding commitment to the arts demonstrated by the Fishback family, without whom the Performing Arts Center on the SDSU campus, the State University Theatre at SDSU and the Brookings Area Community Band might not exist.

The personal contributions of Van and his wife Barbara, as well as Robert and his wife Pat, are notable for their longstanding personal involvement in numerous organizations that promote theater, music and historic preservation in Brookings. Particularly in a university town such as Brookings, the Fishback family's generosity and vision serve as an inspiration for many of South Dakota's promising young students, as well as patrons of the arts. The quality of life in all of South Dakota has been greatly enhanced by the Fishback family's commitment to excellence in the arts, and I thank them and their colleagues at the First Bank and Trust for their extraordinary leadership.●