

in June, and that employment growth over the past 3 months has averaged just 108,000 jobs per month. Those are not the kinds of figures you expect to see in a healthy job market. They are not even enough to keep up with normal growth in the labor force.

You also don't expect to see the earnings of the typical worker falling behind inflation year after year in a growing economy, but that is what has happened since 2003. Average hourly earnings have fallen in each of the past 2 years, and real median household income has declined by about \$1,700 under President Bush.

The benefits of economic growth over the last several years are simply not being shared fairly. Those at the upper income levels are seeing gains but, frankly, not the same robust gains of the 1990s, when we saw the proverbial picket fence, where there were positive gains at every level of income in the United States from the poorest to the richest. Now, we are seeing a distribution of income that is skewed to the very richest. At the bottom income and middle income level, there is a loss in real earnings since the President took office. They are not even keeping up.

While wages have stagnated and incomes are falling for most workers, profits have grown to record levels. Corporate profits have grown at an annual rate of over 16 percent, more than twice the average growth rate in past recoveries. Strong productivity growth has shown up on the bottom lines of shareholders, but not in the paychecks of workers.

It seems clear that investors are benefiting greatly from Bush administration policies, but hard work goes unrewarded. Most Americans depend on their salary, not their investments, to pay their bills. Too many Americans are being squeezed by stagnant incomes and rising costs for gasoline, health care, and education. Somehow, the Bush tax cuts are supposed to make up for this.

However, the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center estimates that the tax cuts passed this year will only save the typical American family about \$47—about what it now costs to fill up the gas tank of their minivan. But taxpayers making over \$1 million will receive a tax cut of more than \$42,000—enough to buy a new Mercedes.

Ironically, the sources of the revenue surprises that have led to the improvement in the fiscal year 2006 budget prospectus mirror the growing disparity between incomes at the top of the distribution and incomes for typical American families. Corporate tax receipts are substantially higher than originally projected, and much of the unexpected increase in individual income taxes appears to come from income gains by high-income taxpayers.

In particular, tax receipts for income not automatically subject to withholding, known as nonwithheld receipts, were 20 percent greater during the first 9 months of 2006 compared to

2005. Nonwithheld income is not ordinary wages; it is income such as capital gains, executive bonuses, noncorporate business income, and interest on dividends.

Unfortunately, middle- and lower-income families are paying the price for the President's tax cuts for the wealthiest, as investments in programs that promote greater economic prosperity for ordinary Americans have become candidates for budget cutting.

The President's budget includes cuts to elementary and secondary education, student financial aid for higher education, job training for displaced workers, child care assistance so that parents can go to work, and community development grants aimed at expanding small businesses.

Getting our fiscal house in order is the first step toward keeping our economy strong. But we also can't short-change investments in research and technologies that will create the high-wage jobs of the future. Our policies should be refocused toward promoting lifelong education and training for our citizens in order to allow Americans to increase their earnings, their personal savings, and their ability to own a home.

Today, we are at war and yet there is no sense of the shared sacrifice that has united this country in past conflicts. Our military families are making tremendous sacrifices, and too many of them have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country.

With \$320 billion appropriated or pending for Iraq operations to date and more than 2,500 service men and women killed, the human and financial tolls are both more staggering than imagined.

With mounting war costs, the impending retirement of the baby boom generation, and deficits as far as the eye can see, it is unconscionable to think that we are being asked to make the President's irresponsible tax cuts permanent. Those tax cuts were poorly designed to stimulate job creation and broadly shared prosperity when they were first passed, and they have produced a legacy of large budget deficits that leave us increasingly hampered in our ability to deal with a host of challenges that we face as a Nation.

Large and persistent budget deficits have contributed to an ever-widening trade deficit that forces us to borrow vast amounts from abroad and puts us at risk of a major financial collapse if foreign lenders suddenly stop accepting our IOUs. We had a current account deficit of nearly \$800 billion last year and our international financial debt continues to mount.

Raising our future standard of living and preparing adequately for the retirement of the baby boom generation require that we have a high level of national investment and that a high fraction of that investment be financed by our own national saving—not by foreign borrowers. We followed such prosperity-enhancing policies under Presi-

dent Clinton, but that legacy of fiscal discipline has been squandered under President Bush.

No matter how rosy a picture the administration tries to paint, neither the present nor the future fiscal outlook seems terribly bright. Instead of more tax cuts for the wealthiest among us, we need to invest more in hard-working families and create greater opportunities for every American. We cannot afford the costs of failing to meet that challenge.

CHILD MARRIAGE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to announce that tomorrow I will introduce the Child Marriage Protection Act of 2006 which is cosponsored by Senator CHUCK HAGEL of Nebraska. I have believed for a long period of time that one of the best predictors of how a nation will develop economically can be found in the answer to one question: How does that nation treat its women? If women are treated as property or slaves without rights or opportunities, the country's prospect for economic advancement will be low. But if women have the opportunity to advance and prosper, so will their nation.

The untapped economic and educational potential of girls and women in many developing nations represents an enormous loss to those societies. If women play such a key role in economic development, then we have to start with an even more basic question: How does a country treat its daughters? Girls' educational opportunities and access to health care are key variables in this equation.

The issue of child marriage is another important, but often unrecognized, element that significantly affects access to education and dramatically shapes the lives of girls and women in many developing countries. That is why Senator HAGEL and I will be introducing this bill.

Child marriage is dangerous to the health of girls and young women and their children, detrimental to economic progress, illegal in most countries, and yet common in many parts of the world. In some countries, girls as young as 7 or 8 years old are often married.

This last week's New York Times Sunday magazine had a pictorial display of some of these child marriages around the world. It was heartbreaking to see girls who would be in the second and third grade in the United States of America being claimed as wives by these older men.

Early marriage also carries with it serious health risks. In developing countries, girls aged 10 to 14 who become pregnant are five times more likely to die in pregnancy or childbirth than women who are 20 years to 24 years of age. Their children suffer from high mortality rates as well.

In countries with high rates of HIV/AIDS, child marriage is itself a risk

factor: Girls who are married are at a greater risk of HIV/AIDS than unmarried girls. This is one of the many sad ironies of this practice. Parents may believe that earlier marriage will protect their daughters; instead, it places them in greater danger.

Adolescent mothers in developing countries are also at high risk for a condition known as obstetric fistula. This is a medical condition which has virtually disappeared in developed countries around the world. It occurs most often when a woman is trapped in prolonged, obstructed labor without medical care. In nearly every case, the baby in such circumstances is still-born. Women and girls who survive the ordeal of prolonged labor may be virtually ripped apart physically in the process.

A fistula is an open hole that is created during labor that does not heal. This condition may leave its sufferers unable to control their bowels or bladder. It can be as debilitating socially as it is physically. These girls and women are often abandoned by the husbands who married them at such an early age and impregnated them, and they are shunned by their communities and their families because of this terrible physical condition.

Last December, I went to the Democratic Republic of Congo with Senator SAM BROWNBACK of Kansas. We went to the town of Goma, and in this town of Goma, we visited a hospital known as the Docs Hospital.

The Docs Hospital is kept open by the charity and giving of many churches around the world and in the United States. They have a surgical room which is one of the most professional you can imagine in that part of Africa, funded by the United Nations. Almost all of their work is on this condition of obstetric fistula. Young girls pregnant too soon, subjected to prolonged labor as a result, have this condition which haunts them. Girls who are the victims of sexual assault face the same possibility. Then, after they have been shunned by the families and their tribes, they sometimes walk for hundreds of miles to get to this tiny hospital in Goma.

As Senator BROWNBACK and I approached this hospital, we saw these women lined up sitting in the dirt. They stood as soon as they saw our White faces and broke into songs of greeting, as one often finds in Africa. We looked at the long line of women waiting for their chance for surgery. When we talked to the surgeon, he said some of them will wait for months, and if they are lucky enough to have the surgery, they convalesce two to a bed in this crowded hospital ward. But the surgeon went on to tell us that even one surgery is not enough for many of these women. There are some women who have waited years, with repeated surgeries to try to correct this problem, a problem that would have been avoided for many of these women had they not been exploited at an early age

and if they had not experienced pregnancies which they were not physically prepared to deal with or devastating sexual assaults.

We need to do more to help women and girls who are suffering from this condition, but we also need to do everything we can to prevent it—through access to family planning and medical care and encouraging communities to recognize the true social costs of child marriage. That is one of the goals of our legislation.

We are not trying to dictate to other countries what their laws will be. Child marriage, as I said earlier, is already illegal in most nations, and we are not trying to force our will on unwilling countries. But we are trying to promote change through community-based organizations that help local leaders and parents recognize the costs and horrors of child marriage.

In addition to the often devastating health consequences of early marriage, girls who are married are often denied opportunities to go to school. Girls' education is increasingly recognized as the critical element in economic growth and development. That is why it has been added as one of the criteria for countries to qualify for assistance through the multibillion-dollar program, the Millennium Challenge Account.

U.N. Secretary Kofi Annan has said that "educating girls is not an option, it is a necessity." He is right. Girls' education is a recognized cornerstone of development, but 60 million girls in the world are denied access even to the most basic education. Others may start school but are far less likely to complete school than their brothers because of economic realities and the possibility of child marriage. Early marriage, as I said, is one of the reasons. Engagements and weddings frequently signal the end of school for the 10- or 11-year-old bride.

Lack of education has an enormous impact on the health, economic opportunity, and security of a nation. In Sub-Saharan Africa, children whose mothers have 7 years of education are twice as likely to see their fifth birthday as children of uneducated mothers. The children of mothers who attended school are also far more likely to attend school themselves. Just as early marriage helps to sustain cycles of poverty, education can break those cycles.

Our foreign assistance programs need to address the ways in which these issues are linked. The Child Marriage Prevention and Protection Act will, No. 1, require the State Department and USAID to create a comprehensive strategy to address child marriage as part of the U.S. development agenda; No. 2, require incorporation of this important issue within the annual State Department Country Reports on Human Rights Practices; No. 3, help countries enforce their existing child marriage laws; and No. 4, authorize \$60 million over 3 years, starting with \$15 million in the first year, as part of an

integrated community-based approach to promote and support girls' education, health care, and opportunities.

Child marriage is part of a complex matrix of issues and attitudes. Last Sunday's New York Times, as I mentioned, described the situation in Afghanistan, and here is what they wrote:

Rather than a willing union between a man and a woman, marriage is frequently a transaction among families, and the younger the bride, the higher the price she may fetch.

The Times article stated:

Afghanistan is not alone in this predilection toward early wedlock. Globally, the number of child brides is hard to tabulate; they live mostly in places where births, deaths and human milestones go unrecorded. But there are estimates. About 1 in 7 girls in the developing world (excluding China) gets married before her 15th birthday—

One in seven—

according to analyses done by the Population Council, an international research group . . . Tens of millions of girls are having babies before their bodies are mature enough, increasing the likelihood of death from hemorrhaging, obstructed labor and other complications.

This article described one such wedding: a 13-year-old whose marriage was arranged to pay off a gambling debt.

The story also described the engagement of an 11-year-old girl to a 40-year-old man. They showed the photo. It was horrifying to think about that little girl, who was quoted in the story as saying she really didn't know this man. The girl in question said she had hoped to become a teacher. Instead, she will become an 11-year-old bride—one more girl in a faraway place in the world who has lost her chance for the future.

Child marriage is most common in the rural areas in the poorest countries. This practice perpetuates poverty.

Charlotte Ponticelli, who was then the senior coordinator for international women's issues for the State Department, laid out the case clearly. Ms. Ponticelli stated:

It is unconscionable that in the 21st century girls as young as 7 or 8 can be sold as brides. There is no denying extreme poverty is the driving factor that has enabled the practice to continue, even in countries where it has been outlawed . . . We need to be shining the spotlight on early marriage and its underlying causes . . . We must continue to do everything we can to ensure that girls have every opportunity to become agents of change and to expand the "realm of what is possible" for their societies and the world at large.

The legislation Senator HAGEL and I will introduce is designed to support community-based efforts to support girls' education, discourage early marriage, and assist young girls and women already in marriage.

We invite our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join this bipartisan bill. Parents should never feel that marriage of their 11-year-old daughter is the best option for themselves or their children. With a little help from America and other countries around the world, perhaps we can make this a better choice for the daughters, the families, their nation, and the world.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

U.S. ARMY SERGEANT RUSSELL M. DURGIN

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I rise today to pay special tribute to U.S. Army SGT Russell M. Durgin, a courageous young American from Henniker, NH, who on June 13, 2006, gave his last full measure in service to our Nation.

Russell, or Russ or Durgs to family and friends, was a 2001 graduate of John Stark Regional High School, Weare, NH, where he played lacrosse. Friends say his sense of humor, adventurous spirit, love of life, and wide smile made every moment spent with him a good one. Daniel Webster, speaking of early American leaders said, "While others doubted, they were resolved; where others hesitated they pressed forward." In this spirit, at the age of 17 while still in High School, Russ enlisted in the U.S. Army. He completed basic infantry training at Ft. Benning, GA, in July 2002. Next came a 1-year tour of duty in South Korea with the 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, followed by assignment to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, NY, and a 1-year tour of duty to Iraq from September 2003 to September 2004. Back in the United States during 2005, he successfully completed the U.S. Army's warrior leadership course, combat lifesaver course, and sniper school. In March 2006, he deployed with his unit to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Tragically, in June 2006 during combat operations in the mountains of Korengel, Afghanistan, this brave soldier died of injuries sustained when his unit came under small arms fire. Sergeant Durgin's awards and decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, one with the combat distinguishing "V" device, two Army Commendation Medals, one with the combat distinguishing "V" device, two Army Achievement Medals, the Purple Heart Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Non-commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon 2, Combat Infantryman Badge, and Expert Weapons Qualification Badge.

Patriots from the State of New Hampshire have served our Nation with honor and distinction from Bunker Hill to Kabul—and U.S. Army SGT Russell Durgin served in that fine tradition. Friends and family said he loved his work and was fiercely committed to the Army and to the people with whom he served. During these chaotic and violent times, Russ dedicated himself to serving his Nation because in his heart, he sensed a call to duty.

My sympathy, condolences, and prayers go out to Russell's parents, Jean and Lester, and to his other family members and many friends who have suffered this most grievous loss. The

death of Russ, only 23 years old, on an Afghan battlefield far from New Hampshire is also a great loss for our State, our benevolent Nation, and the world. He will be sorely missed by all; however, his family and friends may draw some comfort in knowing that because of his devotion, sense of duty, and selfless dedication, the safety and liberty of each and every American is more secure. In the words of Daniel Webster—may his remembrance be as long lasting as the land he honored. God bless Russell M. Durgin.

TRIBUTE TO MARY A. RYAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, all of us who know Mary Ryan were saddened by her death on April 25. She was a truly outstanding American diplomat and public servant, and shall be greatly missed.

Mary Ryan dedicated her life to public service and to helping others. She joined the Foreign Service in 1966 and went on to serve the American people as a skilled diplomat for 36 years, including service as Ambassador to Swaziland and Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs. She retired as one of the few Americans to achieve the rank of Career Ambassador, and one of the very first women to do so, a major distinction in her profession, but above all, she touched many lives in the State Department. She served as a mentor to generations in the Foreign Service, and many considered her to be the matriarch of America's diplomats.

As Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs, from 1993 to her retirement in 2002, she frequently testified before Congress, and provided us with valuable guidance and impressive expertise. Thanks to her leadership, Congress made necessary changes to enable the Bureau of Consular Affairs to improve technology, efficiency and information-sharing. She worked aggressively to develop the TIPOFF terrorist lookout system, which became the basis of our current terrorism data system. She was recognized as a leader on consular issues around the world.

Mary Ryan exemplified the best in public service. In a commencement address she delivered some years ago at her alma mater, Saint John's University, she said, "I ask you what JFK asked the youth of my day to do, to return something to the community which has protected and educated you."

She encouraged young men and women to "reject the murderous din of materialism," emphasizing, "There is more to life than the amount of money on your W-2 at the end of the year."

Mary Ryan lived by those words, and they defined her own career and life.

In the immediate aftermath of the bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in August 1998, Mary put on a hardhat and climbed through the bombed rubble of the embassy in Nairobi, wanting to know the name and background of each of the

victims, both American and Kenyan alike. She dedicated much of her subsequent work to improving the security of our embassies around the world, and offering a more compassionate outreach to the State Department's most valuable assets, its men and women.

At a service in honor of one of the Foreign Service Officers who died in the Kenya bombing, Mary Ryan spoke these words:

"She was a beautiful, beautiful person. We are greatly diminished by her loss."

That was true of Mary as well. She too was a beautiful, beautiful, person, and we will miss her very much.

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.

On May 26, 2003, in Lawrence, KY, Josh Graves, a 15-year-old boy who suffers from cerebral palsy, was attacked at a local park by four teenage boys. The four boys approached Graves, taunting him and asking him if he was retarded. They attacked Graves, knocking him to the ground before punching and kicking him. After the attack, Graves was left on the ground suffering multiple seizures. According to reports, the sole motivation for this attack was Grave's disability.

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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF NEW NATIONAL
BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today I congratulate a special group of Hawaii teachers, those who have successfully earned the designation National Board Certified Teacher. During 2005, a new cadre of 30 consummate professionals demonstrated that their teaching practice is consistent with the rigorous requirements for the profession as set by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Their achievement brings the number of teachers working in Hawaii who have attained National Board Certification to 111.

These dedicated teachers are distributed throughout Hawaii's education