

after six Muslim imams were told to get off a plane they had boarded in Minneapolis, but the Judiciary Committee never had the opportunity to study it or perfect it. Regardless of its merit, this provision should have received more careful consideration by the Senate. I am deeply concerned that as written this provision appears to endorse racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination. The best way to prevent terrorism is through solid law enforcement and intelligence work, not through scare tactics or racial profiling.

I voted for this bill because it makes key changes to address security needs. However, our Nation's vulnerabilities demand more and I will continue to work to ensure that our vital homeland security needs are met.

RETIREMENT OF PAUL CULLINAN

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, as chairman of the Budget Committee, and along with my colleague, Senator GREGG, the ranking member, I would like to gratefully acknowledge the expert assistance that the Congress has received from Paul Cullinan during his time at the Congressional Budget Office. Paul is retiring from congressional service in August, and this institution will sorely miss him.

Dr. Cullinan arrived at CBO in 1981, and has contributed to a vast range of policy analyses, budget projections, and legislative cost estimates over the past 26 years. But more important than the amount and variety of such work is the consistently high quality of that work and Paul's continual dedication to providing the Congress with thorough and timely analysis.

For the past 13 years, Paul Cullinan has served as the unit chief of CBO's Human Resources Cost Estimates Unit. He excelled in that role, and his service there allowed CBO to provide critical support to consideration of many varied pieces of legislation, including: efforts to reauthorize and extend higher education programs and the food stamps program, potential changes to Social Security, proposals to reform U.S. immigration policies, and changes to a host of income security programs. Moreover, Paul has been a key contributor to and coordinator of CBO's work on long-term budget projections, which we have come to consider more as we move toward the pending retirement of the baby-boom generation.

In addition to his superb analysis of legislative proposals, Paul has provided constant and wise support to the Budget Committees in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. In short, there are only a handful of true first-tier budget experts here on Capitol Hill, and Paul Cullinan is clearly in the top ranks of that small group—we will miss his input, careful judgment, and dedication to providing the best budgetary information possible for congressional consideration.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I join with Senator CONRAD in recognizing

Paul Cullinan of the Congressional Budget Office. Paul's leadership, extremely dedicated work, and the products of his unit have been essential to understanding entitlement programs and the long-term fiscal condition of the United States. Paul has served CBO Directors and Budget Committee Members of the House and Senate with distinction. He represents the type of dedicated public servants whom we are fortunate to have at the CBO.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MODERNIZATION ACT

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, today I rise in support of the Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act which was introduced on July 25. I am pleased to join my colleagues Senators EDWARD M. KENNEDY, OLYMPIA J. SNOWE, JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, and MARIA CANTWELL to introduce this bipartisan proposal which seeks to encourage States to modernize their unemployment insurance systems. The Unemployment Insurance Modernization Act would make \$7 billion in incentive payments available to States to encourage them to expand eligibility for benefits and provide training to workers struggling with long-term unemployment.

The unemployment insurance, UI, program must be reformed to address fundamental shifts in the economy. The UI system provides needed benefits to millions of U.S. workers each year. But the system needs to be updated to better assist today's more highly mobile workforce and long-term unemployed workers left behind by declining industries. Today, many unemployed workers do not qualify for benefits because their most recent work is not taken into account. Others exhaust their benefits before finding work, joining 1.1 million long-term unemployed workers and an additional 1.5 million discouraged job-seekers struggling to get by. For these reasons, only 35 percent of unemployed workers currently collect unemployment benefits.

The UI Modernization Act sets aside \$7 billion from tax receipts authorized under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, FUTA, to provide incentive payments to encourage States to update their UI systems. The bill rewards states for: (1) removing barriers that block coverage for low-wage and part-time workers; (2) ensuring a more family-friendly UI system; and (3) helping dislocated workers increase their skills. It also provides \$500 million in funding to States to improve the administration of their unemployment compensation systems. These administrative payments are fully paid for from the existing UI trust fund.

The UI Modernization Act would give States the resources and flexibility they need to pass important reforms. Each State would have a chance to receive a share of the \$7 billion set aside for incentive payments. To receive one-third of its allotted funds, a State must

adopt an "alternative base period" allowing workers to meet eligibility requirements by counting their most recent wages. This makes the system—which has traditionally relied on wage data that is up to 6 months old more accurate and helps workers who have recently satisfied earnings requirements to collect the benefits they deserve. States that have already adopted such a system would also receive these incentive payments.

States will receive the additional two-thirds of their share of funds if they adopt or have adopted two of the following reforms that benefit workers: (1) provide unemployment compensation for workers who have voluntarily left their jobs due to the illness or disability of an immediate family member, the relocation of a spouse for employment, or domestic violence; (2) provide training benefits to unemployed workers laid off from a "declining" occupation who are enrolled in a State-approved training program for entry into a high-demand occupation; (3) provide unemployment compensation benefits to individuals seeking part-time work; (4) raise maximum compensation caps so that all long-term unemployed workers can receive a full 26 weeks of benefits; or (5) pay unemployed workers at least an extra \$15 per week for each of the worker's dependents.

Mr. President, in periods of unemployment, workers need a sound program of training and benefits to find new and rewarding opportunities. This bill will provide important resources to States like Virginia, as they improve their programs to help workers and their families in times of need.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, despite the outcry for change in the wake of the deadliest shooting rampage in our Nation's history, too many schools continue to be plagued by gun violence. True prevention requires reducing the likelihood of death or injury before an incident occurs. Unfortunately, we have still not done enough to prevent dangerous guns from falling into the hands of those who may intentionally or unintentionally use them to harm themselves or others.

Earlier this month, a group of engineering students at Kettering University, in Flint, MI, gathered in an apartment to celebrate the beginning of their 3-month job co-ops, part of their degree requirements. One of the students stumbled across a 9mm handgun lying on a dresser in one of the apartment's bedrooms. He picked up the weapon, and, after seeing himself in a mirror, made a sudden spin move with it. As he spun around, the gun accidentally discharged. Karl Joseph Hansen, 21 years old and asleep at the time, died of a single gunshot wound to the head.

Because a loaded handgun was present in an otherwise unremarkable

celebration, one student was left dead and another has been charged with involuntary manslaughter, a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Such an event is extremely difficult to comprehend. For the people and families directly involved, it is nearly impossible.

Shortly after the tragedy at Kettering University, following a heavy night of drinking, an undergraduate student at Yale University decided it would be a good idea to fire one of his pistols in the basement of his fraternity house. When he heard the shots, a visitor to the school ran downstairs to investigate. The student responded to the visitor's requests for him to put the gun down by firing two rounds of blanks at the ceiling. When the visitor then tried to convince the student even blanks could be dangerous, he is reported to have responded by asking "Why don't I point it at your head and find out?" When the student was subsequently arrested, police discovered an AK-47 assault rifle, AR-15 assault rifle, two rifles, a shotgun, several other pistols and nearly 5,000 rounds of ammunition in his bedroom. He has been charged with two counts of illegal possession of an assault rifle, unlawful discharge of a firearm, reckless endangerment in the first degree, threatening in the second degree, and breach of peace in the second degree.

Time after time, we see these tragedies reported in the news. Yet Congress has not taken the necessary steps to help control these acts of violence or ease the anxiety that many parents and families feel each day as their children head off to school. By removing firearms from potentially dangerous situations, we can prevent these types of tragedies from occurring. Congress should take up and pass sensible gun legislation as soon as possible.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. REED. Madam President, due to the delay of my flight, I was unavoidably absent for vote No. 285, the vote to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 976.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on the motion to proceed. This is one of the most important pieces of legislation that the Senate will consider this year. It is the first reauthorization of the highly successful Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP. I am proud to have been a part of the original bipartisan effort to create this initiative back in 1997. While some on the other side of the aisle will criticize the Finance Committee agreement pending before this Chamber, no one can deny CHIP has played a crucial role in helping to reduce the rate of uninsured low-income children over the past 10 years.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the number of uninsured children fell from 22.5 percent in 1996 to 16.9 percent in 2005 due in large part to CHIP.

I look forward to a vigorous and spirited debate on this bill, and I am dedicated to working very closely with my colleagues to ensure the Senate will advance a reauthorization bill that reaffirms our commitment to health insurance coverage for children in Rhode Island and around the country. •

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMEMORATING THE 1997 SPRING CREEK FLOOD

• Mr. ALLARD. Madam President, today I commemorate the Spring Creek Flood in Fort Collins, CO, which occurred 10 years ago this weekend. As the rains began to fall on the evening of July 27, 1997, it would have been hard for anyone to believe that this seemingly typical summer afternoon storm would wreak havoc on the city.

All told, 14.5 inches fell on Fort Collins within a 31-hour period of time. Composite rainfall patterns indicated that over 10 inches of rain blanketed a 30 square mile area of northern Colorado. This flood took the lives of 5 Fort Collins residents and forced over 400 to be rescued from the rising waters, severely damaged or destroyed approximately 2,000 homes and businesses across the city, caused over \$200 million in damage, including the near destruction of Colorado State University's library. The storm derailed a train and caused buildings to explode. This was not something this college town was used to experiencing. Those residents who were fortunate enough to be unaffected by the flood that night awoke to the sounds of helicopters, massive road closures, and local schools converted into Red Cross shelters. For a place that occasionally made national news by appearing on lists for "best place to live" and "most restaurants per capita," this sudden and shocking destruction was not the reason why the people of Fort Collins ever imagined their town would be the top story on all the news networks.

As quickly as the rains came that night, and continued through most of the following day, it was all over. Sadly, like the pictures we all vividly remember of recent natural disasters in the United States, many wondered aloud in Fort Collins 10 years ago how this could have happened here. As the small creeks that flowed peacefully along the sides of bike trails and through the parks and baseball fields of the city suddenly swelled and transformed into violent streams of water that engulfed so much, it seemed probable that this city of about 110,000 residents would be permanently affected by this storm for a long time to come. For a community that had experienced tremendous expansion and job growth

through the 1990s—due considerably to the rise of the tech boom—it appeared the good times had come to an end. With so many infrastructures in disrepair, it seemed unlikely that companies would continue to expand to Fort Collins in the manner they had been doing over the years preceding the flood.

What had long been, and continues to be, the heart of Fort Collins, Colorado State University, received the brunt of the damage. Just 5 weeks prior to the start of classes, a 7-foot wall of water that had concentrated its strength through the run off of many smaller floods tore through the main campus. Thirty-six buildings sustained significant damage, most especially the newly remodeled Morgan Library and the Lory Student Center. Rain-water, sewage and debris rushed through the library and destroyed about 425,000 books and journals, about one-quarter of the library's inventory. As school began that year, the students and professors adapted to a more nomadic life, but worked together, as they all faced the same obstacles.

As time moved on, CSU began to recover from the flood, the Morgan Library was rebuilt and CSU took the opportunity to update its electronic resources, making them state-of-the-art. The drainage systems were updated and replaced, with walls and landscaping put in place to counter a flood 6 inches greater than what was experienced in 1997. As CSU recovered, the city did as well. Beautification and clean-up efforts took place on a massive scale, stronger bridges were built, and creeks were redesigned to more evenly disperse water should this 500-year flood ever occur again. The community at-large pitched in to clean up the parks and neighborhoods that were littered by debris. Local businesses, the school district, and CSU all continued to work together and leaned on each other to bring Fort Collins back.

As the Colorado summer faded into fall and the days began getting shorter, the mounds of ruined furniture and rows of unusable refrigerators that lined the neighborhood sidewalks for so long slowly began disappearing from the city's landscape and life started to get back to normal. Fort Collins has continued to grow over the last 10 years and so has CSU. Still, there are many reminders today of the storm: from the occasional open spaces that were simply wiped out by the flood and never rebuilt; to new buildings, roads and bridges that were built following the storm; to the glaring markers that line the Spring Creek Trail showing the water levels on that day 10 years ago.

Sadly, Fort Collins' experience with flooding and tragedy is shared by many communities across the Nation, most especially along the gulf coast in Louisiana and Mississippi, as many continue to struggle to find some semblance of normalcy almost 2 years after Katrina and Rita. Recently, we have