

amendment has been delivered to the office of the Committee and circulated via e-mail to each of the offices by at least 5:00 PM the day prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.

2. It shall be in order, without prior notice, for a Member to offer a motion to strike a single section of any bill, resolution, or amendment under consideration.

3. The time limit imposed on the filing of amendments shall apply to no more than three bills identified by the Chairman and included on the Committee's legislative agenda.

4. This section of the rule may be waived by agreement of the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member.

VI. PROXY VOTING

When a recorded vote is taken in the Committee on any bill, resolution, amendment, or any other question, a quorum being present, Members who are unable to attend the meeting may submit their votes by proxy, in writing or by telephone, or through personal instructions. A proxy must be specific with respect to the matters it addresses.

VII. SUBCOMMITTEES

1. Any Member of the Committee may sit with any Subcommittee during its hearings or any other meeting, but shall not have the authority to vote on any matter before the Subcommittee unless a Member of such Subcommittee.

2. Subcommittees shall be considered de novo whenever there is a change in the Subcommittee chairmanship and seniority on the particular Subcommittee shall not necessarily apply.

3. Except for matters retained at the full Committee, matters shall be referred to the appropriate Subcommittee or Subcommittees by the Chairman, except as agreed by a majority vote of the Committee or by the agreement of the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member.

4. Provided all Members of the Subcommittee consent, a bill or other matter may be polled out of the Subcommittee. In order to be polled out of a Subcommittee, a majority of the Members of the Subcommittee who vote must vote in favor of reporting the bill or matter to the Committee.

VIII. ATTENDANCE RULES

1. Official attendance at all Committee business meetings of the Committee shall be kept by the Committee Clerk. Official attendance at all Subcommittee business meetings shall be kept by the Subcommittee Clerk.

2. Official attendance at all hearings shall be kept, provided that Senators are notified by the Committee Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, in the case of Committee hearings, and by the Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Minority Member, in the case of Subcommittee hearings, 48 hours in advance of the hearing that attendance will be taken; otherwise, no attendance will be taken. Attendance at all hearings is encouraged.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise to express my sympathy over the loss of U.S. Army 1LT Jacob Fritz of Nebraska. Lieutenant Fritz died from wounds sustained in an ambush in Karbala, Iraq, on January 20. He was 25 years old.

Lieutenant Fritz was raised on his family's farm near Verdon, NE. From a young age, Lieutenant Fritz knew he

wanted to be a leader. After graduating from Dawson-Verdon High School in 2000, he followed through on this goal. I had the honor of nominating Lieutenant Fritz to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and he graduated from the Academy in 2005. His brother, Daniel Fritz, 22, followed in his footsteps and is currently in his third year at West Point.

Lieutenant Fritz was leading a unit of more than 30 soldiers in Iraq since October. Lieutenant Fritz described his mission as a liaison between Iraqi police and the U.S. Army. He said the work was challenging but rewarding. Thousands of brave Americans like Lieutenant Fritz are currently serving in Iraq. We are proud of Lieutenant Fritz's service to our country.

In addition to his brother, Lieutenant Fritz is survived by his parents Lyle and Noala and his younger brother Ethan.

I ask my colleagues to join me and all Americans in honoring 1LT Jacob Fritz.

ETHICS REFORM

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the lobbying and ethics reform bill that the Senate has passed.

In the early 1990s, I along with several colleagues, including Senator William Cohen, embarked on a journey to enact meaningful lobbying and ethics reform. While we had been assured by colleagues that this was a monumental and perhaps impossible undertaking, we nonetheless forged ahead. Decade after decade, Congress had tried to close loopholes that had existed for almost 50 years, which kept lobbying activities in the dark.

In 1995, we finally succeeded in passing the Lobbying Disclosure Act. Our bill, for the first time, opened up the world of lobbying, and the billions spent in it, to the light of day. That act required paid professional lobbyists to register and disclose whom they represent, how much they are paid, and the issues on which they are lobbying.

As much as we knew that the Lobbying Disclosure Act was a real step forward, we knew that like all procedural reforms, it too would eventually need updating. Inevitably, lawyers and lobbyists would find loopholes and create new methods to dance around the law's intent.

We have seen this dance prominently over the past few years. From super-lobbyist Jack Abramoff's attempts to peddle influence, to Congressman Duke Cunningham's abuse of the appropriations process, it is obvious that the time to close these loopholes has come.

The bill that the Senate just passed brings much needed reforms, many of which I sought in the original Lobbying Disclosure Act over a decade ago. It goes after not only the real problems that have arisen over the past few years, but as the perception of corruption that is sometimes the effect of too

little disclosure and rules which are too weak.

One of the most important reforms in S. 1 is a strict curb on gifts by lobbyists to Members of Congress. These are perks that have no place in Government. The new rules in this bill will eliminate these gifts.

I am also pleased at the final outcome of the strong earmark reform provisions in this bill. Too many earmarks are added in the dead of night or buried in conference reports so dense that the average American has no idea where their tax dollars are going. The language can also be ambiguous to the point where we don't even know who is the intended beneficiary. This bill will require full and open disclosure of earmarks, which I hope will help to ensure the quality of the projects which are funded.

Strong travel restrictions are also an essential component of this bill. The new rules will ensure that Members traveling on corporate jets would have to reimburse at the charter rate, not as is now the case merely at the level of a first class commercial ticket.

While I applaud passage of these strong reforms, I believe we needed to go even further. One of the most important provisions in this bill is one that I worked on with Senator LIEBERMAN, which would have finally closed the major loophole that exists under current law that allows lobbyists to conceal millions of dollars worth of expenditures spent in stimulating "grassroots" lobbying efforts, or what has been described as "astroturf" lobbying.

Ten years ago, when we enacted the Lobbying Disclosure Act, it required paid lobbyists to disclose the amounts that they spend to try to influence Congress and the executive branch. However, under the LDA, lobbyists are not required to disclose how much they spend in efforts to persuade others to help them make their case. In the mid-1990s, the Wall Street Journal estimated that major lobbying firms spent almost half a billion dollars every year for this purpose. The amounts have undoubtedly grown substantially since then. Yet these amounts still go undisclosed on the lobbying disclosure forms filed by those firms. The disclosure provision in S. 1 was intended to close this loophole and require paid lobbyists to disclose all of their expenditures, instead of just some of them.

This provision would have had no impact at all on citizens who contact their Government, regardless whether they decide to make those contacts on their own initiative or at the suggestion of others. It would have had no impact on religious organizations, unions, universities or other employers who suggest that their own members or employees contact the Government. It was aimed at paid lobbyists who spend large sums of money to persuade others to contact the Government in support of a lobbying campaign that they are conducting on behalf of a client. These paid lobbyists would have been required to disclose how much they are

spending on such efforts. This disclosure, like lobbying disclosure in general, would have helped inform the public of pressures being brought to bear on their representatives by paid interests.

Even though identical language was passed by Congress last year when we considered a lobbying reform bill, it was stripped from the final version of this legislation. I nonetheless look forward to examining this issue in the future and hope to work with Chairman LIEBERMAN in the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee this year to look for solutions to this loophole.

I was pleased, however, that a provision I authored last year to require reporting by foreign lobbyists was included in the final passed bill. Foreign lobbyists file their disclosures under the Foreign Agents Registry Act. The forms are difficult to find and almost as hard to understand. My provision will require a publicly accessible, electronic database containing FARA disclosures in the same format that will be in place for registrants under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

A number of scandals over the past few years have shown us that ethics and lobbying reform are vital. While this bill was not perfect, I believe it will go a long way to clean up corruption in Washington. This bipartisan effort in the Senate proves that we are up to the task of addressing corruption and perceived corruption in Congress. I am hopeful that the House will soon consider its own lobbying reform legislation and that we will have strong provisions signed into law.

But signing this legislation into law cannot be the end of our efforts. The 12 years since the passage of the Lobbying Disclosure Act have shown the lengths to which some will go to find loopholes in the law to circumvent the reforms and undermine the safeguards that we have enacted. We must remain vigilant to protect the integrity of the legislative process in the coming years and be prepared, if necessary, to revisit the issue with future legislation.

COMBATING GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, one effort that must not be overlooked in our fight to combat gun violence, is the work of local law enforcement agencies. Detroit's Joshua Project is but one example of the successful work law enforcement agencies are doing all across the country. The Joshua Project began in 2004 as a collaborative effort between multiple law enforcement agencies, to curb gun violence in Detroit's Southwestern 3rd Precinct.

The Joshua Project, modeled after programs in several other cities including Boston, Minneapolis, and Indianapolis, institutes a zero tolerance policy when a gang member commits any type of gun violence. Any gang member's use of a gun results in strict and sustained law enforcement attention for

everyone in the gang. The project also seeks to deter gun violence by increased monitoring of probationers and parolees through the use of unscheduled home visits and mandatory call-in meetings. So far over 2,000 former offenders have been called in and nearly 3,000 home checks have been conducted. These measures give law enforcement officials the opportunity to proactively intervene in a high-risk offender's life before another crime is committed.

The implementation of the program relies on an innovative partnership between the Detroit Police Department, the Attorney General's Office and Michigan Department of Corrections, along with the assistance of the State courts. Community involvement also plays a critical role in offering both ideas and solutions within the Joshua Project. Community organizations provide assistance, support and counseling to offenders.

Within the first 17 months after the Joshua Project was implemented, shootings in Detroit's 3rd precinct decreased almost 33 percent and gun related homicides dropped nearly 40 percent. As a result of this success, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, Attorney General Mike Cox, and Governor Jennifer Granholm announced this past summer that the Joshua Project would be expanded to Detroit's 2nd precinct.

Mayor Kilpatrick said of this expansion:

We are most successful in our fight against crime when we maximize the strengths of our law enforcement partners throughout the country and state. Our partnership with the Attorney General has reduced gun violence and has saved lives in southwest Detroit. By expanding this program, we hope to build upon our current successes and make the neighborhoods of the second precinct as safe, if not safer, than we have in the third precinct.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all State and local law enforcement officials for their continued service and vital contributions in ensuring the safety of our communities. I am hopeful the 110th Congress will support their efforts by taking up and passing sensible gun safety legislation.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" WOOLF

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to bid farewell to one of the longest tenured members of my Senate staff, Mr. William "Bill" Woolf. Bill will retire from U.S. Senate employment at the end of January, after 20 years of exceptional service to the citizens of this country and to the residents of the State of Alaska.

Bill was born in Washington State and studied at Washington State University and the University of Alaska in Juneau. Growing up in the country, he developed an early and lasting love of the outdoors—boating, fishing, and hunting—even before moving to the Last Frontier in 1974.

He has served as my legislative assistant for fisheries, science, and trans-

portation issues since I entered the Senate in 2002. Prior to that, he worked for the "other Senator Murkowski" for 15 years. While I love to catch and eat Alaska's salmon, halibut, crab, and pollock, Bill truly knows not only the biology but also the economic intricacies of both sport and commercial fishing and game management issues. Over the years, he has become an expert in wildlife and fishery biology and management, dedicating himself to protecting and expanding fish and game stocks not just in Alaska but nationwide.

Bill moves easily among scientists, government officials, fishermen, and business. He has gained a reputation as a dedicated and knowledgeable advocate for sound, scientific fishery and wildlife management and quality resource development.

He has worked tirelessly to help perfect and protect the regional fishery management process, encompassed in the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. Despite never serving with a member of the Commerce Committee, Bill has been influential in many of the fisheries laws passed by this body, dealing with subjects as diverse as reflagging of foreign processing ships, banning the use of large-scale driftnets on the high seas, improving safety and quality inspection techniques for fish products, allowing fishermen greater control over secondary market pricing, providing for country of origin seafood labeling, and encouraging action to allow "organic" labeling.

He also worked with the State Department and others to implement international agreements on fisheries in the central Bering Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk, protection of salmon in the North Pacific, successful negotiations with Canada of the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and many others. He is particularly proud of having drafted, presented, and worked with the staff of U.N. Ambassador Madeleine Albright to achieve U.N. General Assembly approval for the very first international resolution to control bycatch and waste in fisheries worldwide.

Bill, however, has not focused solely on fisheries. Over the years, his range of issues has cut across many lines, involved many disciplines, and a wide range of science, transportation, and other issues for the Alaska congressional delegation. Among his accomplishments were writing the first comprehensive law to control wastewater discharges from cruise ships in Alaska, advising the U.S. Arctic Research Commission, representing Alaska's interests in staff negotiations on the Water Resources Development Act, and working long hours and weekends to ensure that the Highway Reauthorization passed by the 109th Congress would help bring Alaska's road system into the 21st century. He also helped organize and staffed a Senate Coast Guard Caucus for several years.

After the 2005 hurricanes devastated the gulf coast, he was the key influence