

debate over the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, Senator SALAZAR and I introduced an amendment that was approved, compelling the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security to improve security at our northern border until they are able to certify that they have 100 percent operational control of the border.

We introduced this amendment because the Bush administration was not living up to the requirements of existing law. The law requires, requires—does not suggest, does not allow, it requires—that 20 percent of all new border agents be sent to the northern border. But the administration has flaunted that requirement. In fact, only 965 agents out of a total of 13,488 agents are stationed in the North—only 7 percent. And that is after the number of agents actually decreased by nearly 9 percent from fiscal year 2005 to 2006.

Such numbers are ludicrous when you consider that our northern border spans over 5,525 miles and is almost three times as large as the 1,993-mile southern border; almost three times as large, yet it is allocated an infinitesimal amount of our overall border security.

Some of my Republican colleagues will argue that the risk of terrorism is much greater from our border with Mexico than our border with Canada. But they would be flat wrong. History has proven that today. Let me recite some of it.

Over the last several years, nearly 69,000 individuals have been apprehended crossing the northern border. That is the tip of the iceberg as countless others have crossed the border illegally without apprehension because, notwithstanding the law, the administration has only got a handful of people up on the border that is almost three times as long as the southern border.

So we have no idea what the magnitude of this vulnerability is or what consequences will result from the administration's dereliction of duty. We know terrorists seek to exploit vulnerabilities. I created the first task force on homeland security when I was in the House of Representatives. I sat on the select committee that created the Department of Homeland Security. I was the chief Democratic negotiator for the first element of the 9/11 bill. I have spent a lot of time on this issue. The one thing we can be assured of is that terrorists don't continuously operate in the same way. They study, and seek to exploit, vulnerabilities. We know they study how our Nation works and where the holes in our security are. We can be sure they will seek out the easiest path of entry to the United States, and right now that path is through the northern border where it can be easy to avoid the mere 965 agents scattered along more than 5,500 miles.

Those agents are not all on duty at one time. They go through a rotational system. They have 8-hour shifts. That means only a third of those people are

covering the northern border at any given time of day.

I remind my colleagues that in 1999, Ahmed Ressam, the millennium bomber, because he came at the time we were ready to turn to the year 2000, snuck in through the northern border to kill as many American citizens in cold blood as possible. Although we were able to stop Ahmed Ressam from carrying out his deadly plans, we do not appear to have learned any lessons from this near catastrophe. That incident should have been a wake-up call illustrating the vulnerabilities of our northern border and the dire need to remedy them. But instead we remain complacent, focusing the Senate and the Nation on a more politically attractive issue, our southern border. If I am a terrorist seeking to commit an act against the United States, I am going to go to the course of least resistance. If I have nearly 12,500 border agents at one border and 900 some odd in another border, what are my chances? Where am I better off, especially when that border is three times the size of the southern border? Where am I better off to try to cross to the United States and do harm?

We must never order our security priorities based on the political winds of the time. We must examine the evidence and analyze the risks and implement the strongest, most appropriate national defense strategy that ignores the unfounded, often bigoted fears that currently influence the debate. If you are concerned about terrorists, as we all should be, you should be concerned about the state of both of our borders.

I urge my colleagues to join with us in pressuring the administration to take its border security responsibilities more seriously and to send our resources out where we need them. Trying to secure our Nation by focusing on only one of two borders is a recipe for disaster. You either protect the entire country or you have protected none of it.

If my Republican colleagues do not join us soon to secure our northern border, then I question their motives in past debates on immigration. I wonder whether they are more concerned about the ethnicity of immigrants crossing the border than the threats they present. I hope this newly released GAO report will be a call to action for my colleagues from both sides of the aisle. I hope they will support efforts to secure our northern border and make our Nation more secure. This is too important an issue to allow partisan politics to play a role.

I will continue to fight to secure the northern border, the southern border, and all other points of entry, including those by water and by aviation. I hope my colleagues will join me. The Nation cannot afford anything less.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UKRAINE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, on September 30, the people of Ukraine will return to the ballot box to vote in critical parliamentary elections. I rise today to express my hope that Ukraine preserves and extends the tremendous accomplishments they have achieved in establishing a stable and representative government.

I was privileged to represent our country as President Bush's personal representative for the November 21, 2004, presidential runoff election in Ukraine. I was not an advocate of either candidate in the election. My focus was to stress free and fair election procedures that would strengthen worldwide respect for the legitimacy of the winning candidate.

The 2004 campaign for president in Ukraine had been marked by widespread political intimidation and failure to give equal coverage to candidates in the media. Physical intimidation of voters and illegal use of governmental administrative and legal authorities had been evident and persistent.

Unfortunately the situation worsened on the day of the runoff election. The government of then-President Kuchma allowed, or aided and abetted, wholesale fraud and abuse that changed the results of the election. It was clear that Prime Minister Yanukovich, a position that he again holds today, did not win the 2004 election despite erroneous election announcements and calls of congratulations from Moscow.

I joined thousands of election observers who were sent by the United States and European states through organizations such as the National Endowment for Democracy, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European Network of Election Monitoring Organizations. Most importantly, more than 10,000 Ukrainian citizens were organized by the Committee of Voters of Ukraine to carefully observe individual polling stations. These observers outlined an extensive list of serious procedural violations.

Even in the face of these attempts to end any hope of a free and fair election, I was inspired by the courage of so many citizens of Ukraine demonstrating their passion for free expression and for a truly democratic Ukraine. As corrupt authorities tried to disrupt, frighten, and intimidate citizens, brave Ukrainians pushed back by continuing to do their best to keep the election on track and to prevent chaos.

The day after the runoff election, I told the international and local press and the people of Ukraine through a

live television broadcast in Kyiv that President Kuchma had the responsibility and the opportunity to produce an outcome that was fair and responsible. I pointed out that he would enhance his legacy by prompt and decisive action that maximized worldwide confidence in the presidency of Ukraine and the extraordinary potential of that country.

That day, the people of Ukraine demanded change and the Orange Revolution was born. Tens of thousands of Ukrainians rallied and marched in Kyiv and other cities around the country. There commitment to democracy was heard loud and clear. The Central Election Commission that oversaw the flawed runoff election was fired. A new commission was appointed and a new election law was agreed to by all parties in an effort to eliminate fraud.

While the Orange Revolution had a few more twists and turns to navigate, on December 26, 2004, Ukraine's maturing democracy held free and fair elections. For the first time, Ukraine enjoyed the fruits of a true democratic process and elected a representative government. The people of Ukraine built upon their 2004 achievement by holding free and fair parliamentary elections in 2006. What made this accomplishment even more notable was that the 2006 results favored the party that had been voted out of office in 2004, a testament to the fairness of the process. Now it is time for the Government of Ukraine to preserve and extend the impressive gains and to provide a stable and representative government by holding another free and fair parliamentary election.

The people of Ukraine deserve a representative government that will work together to improve the quality of life in that country. In the years since the Orange Revolution, Ukraine has enjoyed a strong commitment to human rights and the rule of law, a growing free press, and a rapidly improving independent judiciary. Free and fair elections on September 30 will mark another important step in the right direction.

I encourage the Ukrainian people to continue their march to true freedom and democracy. A democratic Ukraine is in the national security interests of all parties.

The candidates and leaders of Ukraine must replicate their efforts of 2004 and 2006 and conduct these elections consistent with the standards established by the OSCE. A fraudulent and illegal election would be a major defeat for democracy and leave Ukraine crippled. The new parliament would lack legitimacy with the Ukrainian people and the international community.

Free and fair elections are the first step, but they are not the last. The elected leaders of Ukraine must overcome their past differences and govern together. In recent years, opportunities have been lost because of the failure of governmental leaders to unite and con-

structively work across party and ideological lines. A government that is committed to working together to improve the lives of the people, despite ideological differences will assist the people of Ukraine in reaching their full potential.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, the rising number of Americans without health insurance is a problem that is recognized by all Members of this body. There are some 46.6 million Americans today who are not receiving proper medical care.

Compounding the problem is the reality that, as my colleague from Oregon—Senator WYDEN—likes to say, we do not have a health care system in this country; we have a sick care system.

As we look at the growing cost to our economy that health care represents, the number one thing we can do today to reduce that cost is preventative medicine—making sure that Americans can access health care today, so that they are not sick tomorrow.

The Children's Health Insurance Program is an important means to provide the most vulnerable of our population—our children—with health care. And we all know that when our children are sick, it is not just the child that is impacted but the parents as well; missing time at work to care for their child or catching the latest bug their child brings home from the daycare center. The social and economic impact of a sick child goes well beyond the need for cough syrup or a band-aid. And the impact is even greater in our Native communities.

Section 401 of the CHIP reauthorization bill provides \$10 million in grants for child health studies, including: preventative health care, treatment for chronic and acute conditions, and discovery of knowledge gaps within CHIP and child health. Studies such as these will help to narrow the gap in treatment disparities among native and non-White children, as well as to provide preventive health care services so our children stay healthy while reducing the expensive costs of sick care in America.

This is just one reason why it is important that programs such as CHIP continue their viability. If the President vetoes the bill as he said he would, the resulting straight reauthorization of CHIP at the current baseline assumption means that 800,000 children currently enrolled in CHIP would lose their coverage. But under the CHIP reauthorization bill, those children, plus 4 million more children would be able to access health care—preventive care.

We should not have to read about tragedies such as 12-year old Deamonte Driver from Maryland who died from a tooth abscess. Deamonte's life could have been saved by a routine \$80 tooth extraction but his family was booted

from Medicaid and his mother couldn't afford to pay for Deamonte to receive the necessary dental care. Deamonte Driver died in February of this year.

This heartbreaking story is just one example of why the reauthorization of CHIP—at the Finance Committee passed levels—is so important. 800,000 more children should not be put in a similar position as Deamonte.

In addition, outreach programs will allow more children to be enrolled in the CHIP and Medicaid programs. This bill provides \$100 million in grants for outreach and reenrollment efforts—\$10 million will provide grants to Indian organizations to improve enrollment of Native Americans. Another \$10 million will be spent on a national outreach program and the remaining \$80 million will target rural areas with high rates of eligible but not enrolled children, racial and ethnic minorities and populations with cultural barriers to enrollment.

But CHIP is only one part of the health care struggle. As I noted before, some 46.6 million Americans are without health care insurance. In my State of Alaska, about one out of six people do not have health insurance. And the sad reality is that most of those without health insurance are employed. Only 1 in 10 of the uninsured in Alaska are unemployed people in the workforce.

For every family that is covered through an employer-based health care policy or is able to purchase their own health care insurance, fewer adults and children will rely on Medicaid and CHIP for their health care needs, and create less of a strain on Federal resources.

We know that preventative care is much more effective, both medically and economically, than caring for an illness. Likewise, providing our businesses with the ability to offer affordable health care insurance to their employees is a preventative means to lower the Federal Government's costs as mandatory spending for health care programs takes up a greater and greater portion of the Federal budget.

Until we reach the point where we in Congress can agree on how to address the future of our Nation's health care policies, however, programs like CHIP are needed to ensure that those who are most vulnerable are not left out.

I support this reauthorization bill as a temporary fix of a long standing problem, but we as a Congress must be willing to take a serious look at the future of our health care system, and ask ourselves if we are serious about fixing it. It is a decision that will impact millions of Americans. I urge the President to support the CHIP bill to allow more American children access to the healthcare they need to stay healthy, to stay alert and to function well in school. The best investment we can make is in our children and by signing the CHIP bill, the President can grant our future generation of over 10 million children access to vital health care services.