

A case in point are the spots running on TV today. The image you can see in this new ad I have before us in the Chamber is entitled "Walk Yourself" from the "Above the Influence" campaign. For those who might not be familiar with this ad, I will give a quick synopsis of what this ad says.

The commercial—which looks as though it could have been drawn by a 5-year-old—begins with a man smoking a marijuana cigarette while his dog looks on. When the man notices that his dog wants to go for a walk, he tells his dog to walk himself, presumably because he is too busy getting high. The dog responds, telling him he is disappointed in his master. The ad ends with the dog leaving and raising an "Above the Influence" flag.

Now, maybe I am missing the point, but I fail to see how an ad such as this realistically portrays the dangers or harmful effects of doing drugs.

We have a moral obligation in this country to ensure our young people have a chance to grow up without being accosted with drug pushers at every turn. We need, as a country, to create a strong moral context to help our young people know how to make the right choices. They need to know how to say no. They need to know that saying no is OK. And they need to know that saying no to drugs is the right thing to do. It is not just the safe thing, it is not just the healthier thing, it happens to be the right thing.

While funding for the media campaign has been relatively modest in terms of our overall Federal drug control budget, it, for many, is the most visible aspect of our Nation's war on drugs. With only so much money to go around, we must ensure we are getting the most bang for our buck. Although I support and encourage any agency that works to reduce or prevent drug abuse, as Members of Congress it is important we be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars.

So I refer you to the Weiden-Kennedy chart—and I am not referring to Senator WYDEN or Senator KENNEDY. This is a different Weiden and a different Kennedy. We have had numerous studies over the years as to how the effectiveness of the present media campaign is very minimal, if not nonexistent.

In last year's Weiden-Kennedy test results of teenagers, the flags ads I referred to in the previous chart, as these ads are called—they are called "flags ads"—were rated on their believability, persuasiveness, and honesty. When you add up the averages of the flags ads with the rest of the Partnership for a Drug-Free America ads, the flags ads perform well under the ratings of the previous ads. I think the most important categories an antidrug ad must deliver on would be the ones you see listed on this chart. That is why I am concerned the media campaign is failing to reach and deliver an important message to our teens.

Now, I would like to refer back to the funding because these are taxpayers'

dollars, and we ought to see how they are being spent.

So I am not alone in this assessment about the believability or the effectiveness of these ads. There is a wide variety of studies beyond just the one I referred to showing a lack of effectiveness. Even the Government Accountability Office recommended that Congress reduce funding for the campaign until it can be proven to be an effective prevention tool.

Congress has slashed funding considerably. As you can see from this chart, the funding for the media campaign is only half of what it was 10 years ago. For fiscal year 2008, the House has slashed another \$6 million off the campaign's budget to bring it to \$93 million, though our Senate version keeps the funding level. If this is not a wake-up call to the Office of Drug Control Policy, I do not know what is. If Congress is to support the White House's request for a 30-percent budget increase, then the drug czar must take several steps to improve the quality and the effectiveness of the campaign.

The first thing that must be done is to improve the quality of the ads. This does not require a budget increase to do so. The ads need to be simple, they need to be direct, and, obviously, they need to show the consequences of drug use. Exaggerations like a girl flattened on a couch or "smushed" from pot use, along with poorly drawn cartoons where dogs speak and space aliens freely roam show unrealistic scenarios and damage the credibility of the campaign, as you saw in the previous chart.

The early antidrug public service announcements—I am talking about going back to that period of time 1987 through 1998—were simple, they were short, they were memorable. I believe the success of those early ads can be replicated by using a similar formula.

Secondly, the campaign could be more effective if its message was more diversified. Although the media campaign has begun an awareness campaign on meth, it took an act of Congress to force the campaign to spend 10 percent of its budget to do so. Most of the ads produced by the campaign so far have all been about marijuana. Although I believe it is important that we discourage marijuana use, there are new and alarming drug abuse patterns that are starting to emerge among teens.

Recent studies and articles are showing an alarming rate of teenagers who are abusing prescription drugs to get high. These drugs are easily accessible because kids can easily find and purchase them online or grab them from their parents' medicine cabinet. Many parents are not even aware of the trend or how they should go about discarding leftover medication. The media campaign could be a very useful tool to educate young people as well as parents on these new and emerging threats.

Finally, the campaign, along with Congress, should work to encourage

media outlets to donate more air time for antidrug messages. Currently, the campaign spends most of its budget in purchasing air time. Although media outlets match the amount the campaign spends, it in no way compares to what was donated 20 years ago. I believe it is imperative we show these outlets the need for more donated time in light of the trends I have previously illustrated. With more donated time, it will enable the campaign to focus on producing more ads on emerging drugs without Congress having to balloon its budget in the process.

Some maybe think I have been against antidrug media campaigns because I have been overseeing some of that for a long period of time. But I am not against media campaigns. I am against wasting taxpayers' dollars on ineffective programs that show no effort at improvement. I believe the campaign can be remade into an effective tool to aid in our prevention efforts against teen drug abuse. But much has to change in order for that to happen.

So I intend to send a letter to Director Walters, our drug czar, to find out why the campaign is not having a positive impact on preventing teen drug use. What do they intend to do to change this trend? I am going to ask him. I look forward to hearing their response promptly and to begin the process of reforming and reenergizing the National Youth Antidrug Media Campaign.

Mr. President, let me ask my colleague from Iowa, who has been waiting to speak, I do not know whether we have the first half hour or whether we are going back and forth, but if the Senator does not need the floor right now, I have other remarks I want to make.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time is equally divided, but the order says it is 10 minutes to each speaker. So if the junior Senator from Iowa wishes to speak, he is free to do so.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Go ahead.

Mr. HARKIN. Go ahead.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Iowa is continued to be recognized.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Thank you, Mr. President. And I thank Senator HARKIN.

CHIP

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, the Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve the bipartisan agreement to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program. On Saturday, on television I saw that the President called our agreement—our bipartisan agreement, I want to emphasize—he called it irresponsible.

Specifically, in his radio address, the President said we "put forward an irresponsible plan that would dramatically expand this program beyond its original intent."

Well, I am here to respond to that accusation by President Bush. To call

what we agreed to as irresponsible is an insult to an agreement we reached and is an insult to 67 Members of the Senate and 265 Members of the House who voted in favor of it.

Calling our bipartisan proposal irresponsible ignores reality. The reality is that the current program—the program of the last 10 years, sunseting yesterday—is out of control. The present program is failing. That is—to emphasize—the reason for passing the bipartisan bill that we passed. Because the present program is not working the way it was intended, and with this legislation we corrected a lot of problems to turn that around.

So the President is about to veto a bill that fixes the problems and improves the program for the future without having put a credible alternative on the table. We have not heard from the President as to what he would do about the SCHIP program except he wanted to save it and expand it.

The current program does not have adequate funding just to keep running with no changes. Under current law, the current program is authorized to spend \$25 billion over the next 5 years. That is the baseline amount. But the Congressional Budget Office says the \$25 billion baseline amount will not fully fund the program. So the President says he wants to keep the program going. You cannot do it the way it is funded right now.

Now, what does the Congressional Budget Office say? It says that without more funding, 840,000 kids would lose coverage. Without changes, as many as 22 States will not have any funding to run the program next year, and Iowa is one of those States—my home State. Senator HARKIN is on the floor; he would agree with that, I am sure.

Anyway, the President never said he wanted this program to lose kids, but the Congressional Budget Office says, doing what we are doing now, 840,000 kids would lose coverage. So keeping the current level of funding is not responsible, but if the President vetoes that bill, that is what we are doing. Of course, to the President, ignoring that fact is ignoring reality.

Let's look at what the President proposed. The President proposed a \$5 billion increase in funding in his budget, but that is also insufficient funding. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the President's proposal would cause 840,000 children to lose coverage. That is right. The President's proposed \$5 billion of new funding, without doing anything to get more kids covered, I think is hardly the responsible thing to do.

The proposal put forward by Senator LOTT and Senator KYL that we voted on 2 months ago—now maybe 3 months ago; I guess it was in July we voted on it—was an alternative to the bipartisan product we eventually passed. The proposal by Senators LOTT and KYL devoted twice as much funding as what the President did. To me, that is recognition enough that the President's

thinking on the Children's Health Insurance Program is off track. The Lott-Kyl proposal was the alternative children's health insurance proposal offered during floor debate in July. My good friends put some serious thought into what they developed. They proposed about \$10 billion in new Children's Health Insurance Program funding. That proposal covered 900,000 additional uninsured children, according to the Congressional Budget Office, but the Lott-Kyl proposal only received 35 votes—barely a third of the Senate.

There are good ideas in the Lott-Kyl proposal. They took a serious look at what populations should be covered by the SCHIP program, and it doesn't result in kids losing coverage as the President's proposals do, as the President's budget does, and that for sure is going to happen with a veto. But with all due respect to my friends, 35 votes is hardly a ringing success.

So how much funding is really needed to keep the program afloat? Well, the Congressional Budget Office says \$24 billion of additional funding is needed to provide States with funding so that States can operate their programs as intended. That means \$24 billion is needed to make sure there are no funding shortfalls, and \$24 billion is needed just to fill the hole in the baseline and cover the kids whom States would like to cover if they had sufficient funding. The compromise agreement provides that level of funding and then goes an additional step by offering States incentives to cover more low-income kids, meaning kids and families under 200 percent of poverty. Now, that is the goal of reauthorization—to cover more low-income kids.

The bill we passed last week makes other important improvements to the program. Those improvements include better dental benefits, improves mental health coverage, with an outreach program to get the word out to kids for the kids to enroll. A bipartisan compromise is a responsible approach to funding the program and returning it to its original intent—covering lower income kids—and not covering more adults in 3 of our 50 States than our kids are being covered in those States.

Now let me shift gears and talk about the alternative to authorizing the program. The alternative to a reauthorization of SCHIP is a simple extension of current law, and calling for a simple extension of the current program without addressing the many problems it has—and I just suggested one: 3 States out of 50 cover more adults in the children's program than they cover children. Now, if you want to talk about the word "responsible" and whether Congress is responsible in this bill, I would say anybody who wants to leave the program the way it is—and that is what is going to happen with a veto—that is an irresponsible position to take, to keep a program going that is covering adults in a children's program. We want to cover kids, low-income kids. So the SCHIP pro-

gram today, which is the way it has been for the last 10 years, is far off track.

The President has it backward when he says our bipartisan proposal "expands the program beyond its original intent." With no changes, it is the current SCHIP program that has strayed far from the original intent. I wish to remind my colleagues of 1997, passing the State Children's Health Insurance Program. There is no "A" in SCHIP. It was never meant to cover adults, but adults are being covered. We want to get back to the original intent of this program being for kids.

First of all, the current program covers kids at incomes far above what was considered low income in 1997. It covers parents, and in some States it even covers adults who have no kids. Under the bipartisan agreement passed last week, this program will return to its roots: covering kids, covering low-income kids. Even though the administration approved of States covering childless adults—now, I want to emphasize that: This administration approved the States covering childless adults. Under our bill, childless adults will be phased completely out of the program. This is a responsible thing for Congress to do. This is one of the reasons the President should sign the bill, because the present policies are irresponsible.

Even though the administration approved of States covering parents, under our bill States will no longer be able to get enhanced Federal funding for covering parents. Even though the administration approved of States covering childless adults, under our bill States will only be able to cover higher income kids if they demonstrate they have covered their lowest income kids first.

The agreement passed last week creates new financial incentives to discourage States from spending a penny to cover anyone other than low-income children. All the financial incentives in the agreement are entirely focused on low-income children and, let me emphasize, families of under 200 percent of poverty.

The administration has done nothing to turn around this irresponsible program which is now on the books. In fact, they have made it worse. Yet they have the audacity to call our bill irresponsible. Those who say our bill is irresponsible clearly haven't read the bill. This bipartisan compromise provides coverage for more than 3 million low-income children who don't have coverage today.

If this bill is vetoed and if at the end of the day all we do is simply extend the program that has now been on the books for 10 years, what will we have accomplished? Will adults be gone from the program? No. Will States have a disincentive to cover parents? No. Will States be encouraged to cover low-income kids before higher income kids? No. Will the funding formula be fixed

so that States are not constantly challenged by funding shortfalls? No. Finally, will we have done anything to cover kids out there who are not covered today? The answer is no. No, no, no, no. Is that responsible? No. It is continuing current law. Let me emphasize, it is a continuation of the current law that is the irresponsible thing to do. The program is broken as evidenced in just one way: the 3 out of 50 States covering more adults than kids, in some instances covering adults who don't have any kids.

The program has strayed. It needs fixing. In fact, the bipartisan agreement follows the path laid down by the President himself. I have said this repeatedly. The President made a promise at the Republican Convention in New York:

We will lead an aggressive effort to enroll millions of poor children who are eligible but not signed up for the government's health insurance programs.

President Bush said that. An extension of current law will not do that. He may not want to hear this quote again and again, but until he honors the commitment he made in that speech by making a proposal to cover more low-income kids, I intend to keep repeating it.

The President can keep his commitment by signing the bill we passed last week. But if he is going to veto it, he owes those of us who tried to keep his commitment with our bill a sense of what serious policies Congress can adopt to cover more kids.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 2 minutes to pay tribute to a great Louisianan who passed away.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has that right. We are in morning business.

Ms. LANDRIEU. And that Senator HARKIN would follow me for 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, first let me associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from Iowa who just spoke so eloquently, strongly, and forcefully about the need for our children's health program in the country. I will be speaking later on that subject throughout the week as we all battle to get a better plan to cover more children at such a critical time now in that debate.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY LEE

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak just very briefly about a loss Louisiana has suffered—and, in many ways, the Nation—of a great political leader, a great political figure, and a friend to many.

Earlier this morning, Sheriff Harry Lee of Jefferson Parish passed away after a battle with leukemia. As my colleagues know, I come from a place of rich political heritage, colorful characters, and of amazing and fantastic stories at times about our political figures. Among the most colorful, though, was Sheriff Harry Lee, who stood out and stood tall for so many years. He served the people of Jefferson Parish since 1979 as their sheriff, but he started life in Louisiana in a much more humble way.

Harry was born in the back room of a Chinese laundry in downtown New Orleans to immigrant parents, Bing and Yip Lee, who instilled in him a strong and very determined spirit that would serve him well and serve all of us well for the rest of his life.

After a promising educational start at Francis T. Nicholls, where he served as both senior class president and student body president, Harry went on to college at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He joined the ROTC Program there and was recognized early on as an outstanding cadet. He didn't stop there, though. His next step was to serve the country in the Air Force during the height of the Cold War. He served in the famous Strategic Command. His Air Force career led him to make a great decision in life, and that was to marry Lai Beet Woo, his wife of 40 years.

When Harry returned to Louisiana, he took over the family restaurant and convinced his father to allow him to attend law school. He excelled and became the first Federal magistrate for the Eastern District of Louisiana. He soon then, through many political contacts and his great spirit and gregarious nature and classwork, became parish attorney for Jefferson Parish.

Then, in 1975 and shortly thereafter, he was elected sheriff, a post he held for more than two decades, and he became a household name in Louisiana. This story has probably been tracked by others, but for Harry Lee, who comes from a Chinese-American background, at the time he was elected sheriff I think he was the highest ranking Chinese official and the only Chinese-American sheriff in the country. He was always extremely proud of that, proud of his heritage, always reminding us of that singular accomplishment.

After being a larger-than-life force in the realm of criminal justice for over 30 years, as I said this morning, he finally lost his own battle with leukemia. He had fought and won many battles on the streets in Jefferson Parish, in the courtrooms, and also in the court of public opinion.

Harry Lee's success says something important about our country—the son of immigrants who goes on to not only serve his parish, his city, his region, but went on to befriend Presidents, Republicans and Democrats, being the go-to person when people of great political distinction would come to our State.

They always wanted to see and talk with Harry Lee.

Like all of us in public life, his tenure was not without controversy, but he was fiercely loyal to his deputies. There are thousands of deputies, current and former, who are mourning his passing today.

Looking back on a life like this, you can only think that his father and mother, Bing Yip Lee, who have long passed away, must have looked down and smiled on their son's accomplishments.

The loss of this singular figure in Louisiana politics is not only a loss to Jefferson Parish and to the State of Louisiana, but it is a loss to this great country that we all try our best to serve.

I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to the Lee family, to the deputies, to the law enforcement officials of Jefferson Parish in our State who are mourning this loss today. I hope we will all take some solace from the fact that they are being joined by so many mourners who recognize and appreciate a life well lived.

In closing, a not-so-secret hobby of Harry's was singing. I cannot say he would have ever made records, but he tried and he sang with great zest. At many jazz fests, he would be tempted to the stage by his friend Willie Nelson. They would often sing together. His favorite song was "Welcome to My World." I would like to say to Harry today: Thank you for welcoming us to your world, Sheriff Lee. You served us well, and you will be missed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the closing of my remarks, the Senator from Montana, Mr. TESTER, be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, how much time do I have?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator has 15 minutes. The majority side has 22 minutes 40 seconds remaining.

GUARD AND RESERVE FAMILIES AMENDMENT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for accepting my amendment to support the families of those National Guard and Reserve individuals serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. I thank Senator LEVIN and Senator MCCAIN for their support and assistance in including it as part of the National Defense Authorization Act, on which we will be voting on final passage later today.

This is a new era for our National Guard and Reserves. They are shouldering a huge share of the combat burden in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus a