

Our inability under CTBT to monitor the state of foreign nuclear weapons programs effectively means that hostile or potentially hostile countries will be able to modernize their weapons even as the U.S. arsenal steadily degrades. As a result, the long-term effect of CTBT accession would translate into the inevitable, if gradual, unilateral disarmament of our Nation's deterrent.

Fourth, CTBT would damage the struggle against proliferation. On the one hand, the inherent unverifiability of the CTBT can be expected to encourage rogue state regimes to believe they could pursue nuclear weapons programs with impunity. On the other, the attendant erosion of our deterrent would mean that allied countries—notably, Japan, Taiwan and perhaps South Korea—that currently rely on the U.S. deterrent “umbrella” would be more likely to develop their own nuclear weapons.

As Dr. James Schlesinger remarked in testimony before the Armed Services Committee in 1999, “the chief barrier to proliferation in these last 55 years since Hiroshima has been confidence in the protection offered by the American deterrent. It is the reason, quite simply, that nations like [South] Korea or Japan, or more complicated, in the case of Germany, have not sought nuclear weapons. Because of the NATO agreement, because of the Japan Treaty, because of our agreements with the Koreans, they have not felt the necessity of taking that final plunge. As confidence on their part in the U.S. deterrent wanes over a period of . . . years, what is the likelihood that those nations will refrain from seeking nuclear weapons? I think that it is very modest.”

Finally, the Senate rejected the CTBT in 1999 because it realized that the Stockpile Stewardship Program, SSP, is a “crap-shoot,” as Troy Wade, a retired Department of Energy nuclear scientist, referred to it in his testimony before the Committee on Foreign Relations in 1999. It remains doubtful whether the SSP, supported by CTBT advocates as a substitute for nuclear testing, can adequately meet the maintenance and refurbishment needs of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. As a result, it will become ever more likely that dangerous anomalies in our weapons will pass unnoticed.

Despite these abiding concerns and the Senate vote in 1999, the 2008 Defense authorization bill would put the Senate on record in support of CTBT's ratification without hearings or debate. How can new Senators—37 since 1999—be expected to have reached such a conclusion?

Preordaining the ratification of a treaty, as is done in section 3122 of this bill, does a disservice to the Senate's history of thoughtful consideration of treaties proposed for ratification, especially when the treaties were on issues with the gravity of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

I would be remiss if I didn't reference the comments of Secretary of State Rice in a recent letter. She stated that the administration does not support the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and “does not intend to seek Senate advice and consent to its ratification.”

I also call the attention of the Senate to the Statement of Administration Policy on this bill which states strong opposition to section 3122 due to its dangerous implications for the reliability of our nuclear deterrent.

Mr. President, I note that these are not simply the concerns of this Senator. The letter I will ask to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD makes clear that 40 of my fellow Senators share many of these concerns about the CTBT and the unprecedented approach taken by this bill. My colleagues recognize as I do that since the reasons for the rejection of this treaty in 1999 have not changed, neither should the Senate's position.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the letter to which I just referred printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, DC, October 23, 2007.

Hon. CARL LEVIN,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, U.S.
Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LEVIN: One of the Senate's most important national security debates of the last decade was whether to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). In the end, following a rigorous and thorough debate, 51 Senators voted to reject the CTBT, 17 more than necessary to assure its defeat.

The principal reasons the Senate rejected the CTBT were its lack of verifiability, adverse effect on the safety and reliability of our nuclear stockpile, and potential to increase nuclear proliferation.

We are not aware of any congressional hearings on this treaty since its rejection in 1999. The total absence of discussion in the more than eight years since its rejection belies the assertion in section 3122 of S. 1547 that the CTBT now should be ratified. Moreover, the 37 Senators who have joined the Senate since this treaty was rejected deserve to have the benefit of a careful and measured review of this treaty. There is no basis on which they can conclude that CTBT should be ratified.

The Constitution of the United States invests an extraordinary responsibility in the Senate to provide measured and thoughtful review of treaties when submitted by the President for our consideration. The Senate has not had the opportunity for such review since 1999. In a recent letter, Secretary of State Rice stated that the Administration does not support the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and “does not intend to seek Senate advice and consent to its ratification.” The Statement of Administration Policy on S. 1547 likewise states strong opposition to section 3122 due to its dangerous implications for the reliability of our nuclear deterrent.

Under all of these circumstances, we believe it denigrates the serious role of the U.S. Senate to claim in section 3122 to ex-

press the “sense of the Congress” that the CTBT should be ratified.

Sincerely,

Jon Kyl, John McCain, Johnny Isakson, James Inhofe, Mike Crapo, Wayne Allard, Jeff Sessions, Michael B. Enzi, Sam Brownback, C.S. Bond, Larry E. Craig, Bob Corker, Saxby Chambliss, John Thune, Trent Lott, John Cornyn, Jim DeMint, Jim Bunning, David Vitter, John Ensign, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ted Stevens, Pete V. Domenici, Olympia Snowe, Mitch McConnell, Elizabeth Dole, John Barrasso, Richard C. Shelby, Thad Cochran, Chuck Grassley, Norm Coleman, Mel Martinez, Tom Coburn, Lindsey Graham, Lisa Murkowski, Richard Burr, John E. Sununu, Judd Gregg, Orin Hatch, Lamar Alexander, Pat Roberts.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING MOOSEHEAD MANUFACTURING COMPANY

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Moosehead Manufacturing Company, a small firm in Monson, Maine, that will soon be reopening its doors. For 60 years, Moosehead Manufacturing had been a thriving business that exemplified the quality of Maine production. Unfortunately, after facing tough challenges from the global economy earlier this year, Moosehead ceased production. With the help of new investors, the company recently announced that it will recommence production and hire 40 employees in Monson, continuing its legacy of providing quality furniture to the State of Maine and beyond.

Moosehead Manufacturing specializes in producing exceptional Maine-made furniture. The company prides itself on the durable and hand-finished aspects of its products, which it offers to consumers at competitive prices. Not only does Moosehead Manufacturing provide valuable employment opportunities, it procures all of its production resources from within the State, helping Maine's economy. The furniture is built from hardwoods harvested from neighboring forests, cut in Moosehead's own saw mills, and dried in its own kilns. Moosehead has been described as “an amazing corporate citizen” by Tom Lizotte, a Piscataquis county commissioner.

Moosehead Manufacturing was founded in 1947 by the Wentworth family. At its peak of production in the late 1990s, it was the largest privately owned furniture factory in New England, employing about 250 workers. Recently, increasing imports of cheap, foreign-made furniture have threatened Moosehead's business. In 2003, Moosehead Manufacturing joined a group of furniture makers nationwide in petitioning the Government to place duties on some of the furniture that China imports to the United States. I echoed their sentiments in a letter I sent to Secretary of Commerce Evans stating my deep concern with the impact Chinese imports were having on

the small and midsized American companies fighting to compete. The problem reached a climax when Moosehead announced its closure in February 2007. The communities of Monson and Dover-Foxcroft, where the company maintained its factories, were dealt great blows with the loss of nearly 130 jobs. And while I was disappointed that Moosehead was forced to shut down its facilities, I fully supported trade adjustment assistance funds to workers who lost their jobs.

However, three new buyers recently stepped forward to save Moosehead Manufacturing: Joshua Tardy, the minority leader of the Maine House of Representatives; Dana Connors, president of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce; and Ed Skovron, a financier from Rhode Island. Under the continued management of John Wentworth, Moosehead will soon resume production in Monson, much to the relief of Piscataquis County, and will return to making longlasting furniture in which Mainers can take pride.

Moosehead Manufacturing's reopening is exciting for the economic prospects of both Monson and Maine. Not only does it provide necessary employment opportunities, but it also sets a precedent for continued, Maine-based manufacturing established on quality and durability in the face of an increasingly competitive global market. I wish the owners and employees of Moosehead Manufacturing Company continued success in the coming years. I look forward to its exciting return to Maine's business scene.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. EILEEN SCHMITT

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, at the end of this year, Dr. Eileen Schmitt, a friend and fixture in our Wilmington community, is retiring, and I want to share her inspirational story because there is much all of us can learn from her.

As we debate health care, again, and again, and again in this Chamber, Dr. Schmitt has lived the life Mother Teresa called for when she said: Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.

A talented medical doctor who rose to become president and chief executive officer of St. Francis Hospital, she walked away from her fancy title and big desk in 2001 to do her true calling, healing the poorest in our community. She became the medical director for the St. Clare Medical Van, making her rounds in a mobile van to provide free health care to those who have no insurance.

The van pulls up, and there may be 20 people waiting—some earn minimum wage, some don't have a job, some are homeless, many are children—and she asks for no money, no insurance. She just sees to their medical needs.

As part of her work, she arranges for doctors to donate their time, and launched drives to create a pharmaceutical fund for prescription medi-

cines for her patients. If funds are low or a patient needs something right away, she buys it herself. That is the type of person she is.

And in her spare time, you can find her teaching her patients English, and bringing clothes to the families she visits.

When someone asked her why she does it, she explained:

When I first went into medicine, I wanted to do missionary work. I think getting back to taking care of people—especially people who don't have the means to get medical care—helps to fulfill my initial calling.

The acts of love and compassion she provides every day may seem small in our prosperous country of 300 million people, but America would be much less of a Nation were it not for Dr. Schmitt.

Her patients call her their angel, and indeed she has been one to them. But she also is an inspiration to all Americans, reminding us that small acts, one person at a time, touch and change our neighborhoods.

I know Senator CARPER, Congressman CASTLE, and all my colleagues thank Dr. Schmitt and wish her happiness and health as she retires.●

CONGRATULATING GEORGE F. POTARACKE

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I would like to take this time to congratulate Mr. George F. Potaracke on his retirement from the Wisconsin Board on Aging and Long Term Care, where he has served as executive director since 1981.

Mr. Potaracke has been with the Board on Aging and Long Term Care since its inception in the early 1980s and was selected as its first executive director. Under his leadership, the Board on Aging and Long Term Care has grown from an agency of only 3 employees to an agency of 30 employees with offices throughout the State.

Along with his duties as executive director of the Board on Aging and Longterm Care, Mr. Potaracke directs the Wisconsin Medigap hotline, which provides counseling services for Medicare beneficiaries in Wisconsin. He is the treasurer of the National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform and an adviser to the National Health Policy Council and the Aging Leadership Council. He has served as president of the National Association of State Long Term Care Programs and leads fundraising efforts for this organization.

In addition to his work on behalf of seniors, Mr. Potaracke is actively involved with the national Human Rights Campaign, the AIDS Support Network of Southern Wisconsin, Frontier Men of Dane County, and the New Harvest Foundation, where he chairs fund-raising efforts.

Throughout his career, Mr. Potaracke has dedicated himself to a wide range of aging services. As chair of the Senate Special Committee on

Aging, I have had the distinct privilege of working with Mr. Potaracke on a variety of issues and hold his opinion in the highest regard. He is nationally recognized as an advocate for our aging population and has truly made a difference on behalf of all seniors.

On behalf of our State and Nation, I thank Mr. Potaracke for his service and wish him good health, happiness, and prosperity for many years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO WALGREENS' 6000TH STORE IN NEW ORLEANS

● Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, Walgreens, a leading national drug store chain, is today hosting a celebration for the opening of its 6,000th store, which is located in New Orleans, LA. I am thrilled that for this milestone the company has chosen my hometown, which is enduring a long recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

The greater New Orleans area is one of Walgreens' oldest and most distinct markets. The first store in the region opened in 1938, and the new store in the historic Carrollton neighborhood is the city's 48th. The company currently employs nearly 1,400 people in the area who serve thousands of patients and customers every day. Walgreens will become a wellness resource for Carrollton residents, some of whom have underserved health care needs.

In honor of the grand opening, Walgreens is today offering free blood glucose screenings in every New Orleans store to drive greater awareness of the diabetes epidemic and get more people on the path to prevention or early detection and treatment.

The Walgreens wellness tour bus will also travel to locations throughout the area today to provide a variety of tests, including cholesterol, blood pressure, bone density, and body mass index for individuals who otherwise may not have access to basic health screenings.

Immediately following Katrina, 74 Walgreens stores had to close because of physical damage and loss of power. It was the most significant operational challenge in the company's 106-year history. More than 700 Walgreens employee volunteers traveled from across the country to help with recovery efforts, filling hundreds of thousands of emergency prescriptions and providing vital supplies to evacuees. Walgreens was one of the first retailers to reopen, proving New Orleans was on the road to recovery. I am grateful for their great help to our region during the extremely challenging days following the storm and the flood that followed.

Through its investment, Walgreens is demonstrating its continued commitment to our great city and region. By next summer, Walgreens will have more stores in the New Orleans area than it did prior to the hurricane. I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Walgreens and New Orleans for this longstanding and growing relationship.●