

leadership on this bill and their strong bipartisan work to complete this conference report. I also commend Chairman MILLER and Ranking Member MCKEON in the House of Representatives and Congressmen KILDEE and CASTLE for their work on this reauthorization. Since 2003, the Senate HELP Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee have worked to reauthorize this legislation. As a result of more than four years of bipartisan efforts, the conference report we adopted yesterday improves and strengthens the already successful Head Start program. I am happy with the unanimous passage of the bill and look forward to its enactment into law.

Since 1965, Head Start has provided comprehensive early childhood development services to low-income children. The evidence is clear: Head Start works for the more than 900,000 children enrolled in its centers throughout the country.

This conference report bolsters the comprehensive nature of Head Start that aids in the social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of low-income preschool children. The program is successful because each center works to address the needs of its local community. Head Start is more than just a school readiness program; it addresses the comprehensive needs of children and their families by providing health and other services to enrolled children.

The role of parents as essential partners and decisionmakers in Head Start is also strengthened in this legislation. Families play the most important role in ensuring the success of their children, and our bill maintains an integral role for parents in the decision-making and day-to-day operations of the program. Parent involvement is a centerpiece of Head Start and I believe this bill strengthens their critical role.

Expanded eligibility, improved accountability, strengthened school readiness for children and enhanced teacher quality are some of the essential elements of this legislation. In addition, collaboration and coordination with other early childhood development programs and outreach to underserved populations is greatly improved. The legislation before us significantly increases resources for Indian Head Start and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start. In addition, Early Head Start is prioritized, so that thousands of additional infants and toddlers will be served. We know that major brain development occurs in the first 3 years of life and I am thrilled that we are putting research into practice by expanding Early Head Start.

The conference report will enable more low-income children to get a head start by allowing programs to serve families with incomes up to 130 percent of the poverty level, while ensuring that the most vulnerable families below the poverty level are served first. This is important for Connecticut and other States where the cost of living is

especially high and many working poor families aren't able to access services because they earn just above the poverty level.

Although we do not go as far as I would personally like to see in funding for Head Start, we do authorize additional resources in this bill. Despite the tight budget situation, we authorize an increase of six percent from \$6.9 billion to \$7.35 billion in fiscal year 2008, to \$7.65 billion in fiscal year 2009 and to \$7.995 billion in fiscal year 2009. I continue to be gravely concerned about the lack of resources for Head Start—funding levels have been essentially flat since 2002. Currently, only half of eligible children are served in Head Start and fewer than 5 percent are served in Early Head Start. The increased funding authorized by this bill will help us to begin to close this gap.

Across the country, Head Start providers are reporting rising costs in transportation health care premiums, facilities maintenance and training for staff. Rising operating costs are coinciding with decreasing state, local and private contributions to Head Start programs. We address these needs by ensuring that all Head Start programs receive a cost of living increase, tied to inflation, each year that funds are available.

Research shows that child outcomes are directly related to the quality of the teachers and professionals who work with them on a daily basis. I am pleased that in the bill we establish strong educational standards for Head Start teachers, curriculum specialists and teacher assistants. In 6 years, all Head Start teachers will be required to have an associate's degree and 50 percent of teachers will be required to have a bachelor's degree. I will continue to work toward increased funding to assist teachers in pursuing additional educational goals.

When Head Start began more than 40 years ago, it was the only preschool program available for low-income children; now there are many approaches. Collaboration and coordination with other early childhood programs is also an essential piece of this Head Start bill, reducing duplication and encouraging opportunities for shared information and resources.

This legislation represents an important step forward and I welcome our continued focus on the needs of our Nation's children.●

SITING FUTUREGEN IN ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are nearing an important milestone in the development of an ambitious project to develop new, environmentally friendly ways of using coal. FutureGen is a joint venture between the Department of Energy and an international, non-profit consortium of coal producers and energy generators. The FutureGen project will explore the viability of capturing and sequestering carbon dioxide an unwanted by-product of coal use.

The plan is to begin facility construction for the project in 2010, with full-scale operation beginning in 2013. The plant will generate approximately 275 megawatts of electricity, which is enough to supply 150,000 homes.

The key to the FutureGen project, of course, is siting it at a location that can best meet the project's goals for carbon capture and sequestration. Right now four sites are under consideration, including Mattoon and Tuscola, IL. Those sites are ideally suited for this project. Illinois is coal country. Our State has 38 billion tons of recoverable bituminous coal reserves, the largest in the Nation. That's one-eighth of the total U.S. coal reserves, representing more energy than the oil reserves of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait combined.

The Illinois sites have an abundant and reliable supply of water. The deep, thick, undisturbed sandstone reservoirs of southern Illinois are well suited for carbon sequestration. Unlike the other sites being considered for FutureGen, Illinois shares geological features with other states likely to build new coal plants capable of carbon capture and sequestration. The experience gained, then, by siting this project in Illinois will be key to extending the technology to new coal-fired plants built in the U.S.

Other States recognize the merits of the Illinois FutureGen proposals. Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin have each declared support for the Illinois sites, based on their superior geology and infrastructure compared to competing sites.

A decision on where to site the FutureGen project is around the corner, and it can't come too soon. Global warming is already marring the Earth. Global average surface temperatures are rising at an alarming rate. Cold days are fewer, and heat waves are more common. Mountain glaciers and ice caps are melting. The global average sea level is rising. Coastal regions are threatened. It is no exaggeration to say that global climate change is the most threatening environmental disaster we face.

Through it all, the world's top scientists have clearly advised that man-made greenhouse gases that trap the Sun's heat are a significant factor in this shift in the global climate. Of those greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide is by far the most important. Because of our reliance on fossil fuels for heating, power, and transportation, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere today are far greater than any seen in 650,000 years. And those levels are only growing.

In fact, the growth rate of carbon dioxide concentrations over the past 10 years is greater than at any point since we have been taking measurements. The problem will only grow worse as China, India, and others work to catch up economically to more developed countries. Much of that economic growth will be fueled by coal-fired powerplants.

The world is looking to the United States for leadership in finding solutions to carbon dioxide emissions. The U.S. Climate Change Science Program this week reported that the United States was responsible for 23 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions in 2003 that is more than 1.5 trillion metric tons.

Unless we stand up and face this problem head on, it is unimaginable that developing countries will be serious about curbing their emissions. And where does that carbon dioxide come from? Well, almost 40 percent comes from the combustion of coal for electricity.

Coal represents just about half of America's electricity production. It isn't going away anytime soon, especially as energy demands grow in the U.S. and the world. How can we balance these needs, then, for affordable, abundant energy supply and stewardship of the earth's environment? Technology may hold part of the solution. Carbon capture and sequestration is one possible option; it is a way to extract carbon dioxide from combustion gases and pump it underground for long-term storage to keep it out of the atmosphere. There is great potential for such technology in the United States, but it has not been demonstrated in a full, integrated facility.

That's where the FutureGen program comes in. In Illinois, we eagerly await word of the project's location. And we look forward to working with the Department of Energy and the private sector partners to explore the potential of this promising new technology.

As the world faces the interconnected prospects of economic expansion and devastating environmental catastrophe, we must search for technological options that will help lead us to a sustainable future. One promising possibility is the use of underground carbon sequestration to keep carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere while employing America's most abundant energy source: coal. FutureGen is a key step to testing that technology, and I am proud that Illinois is in a position to show America's responsible leadership to the world.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SPECIALIST ADRIAN HIKE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have the responsibility to pay tribute to a soldier from my home State of Iowa who has fallen in the line of duty. SPC Adrian Hike was killed while serving his country in Afghanistan. He was assigned to A Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

My prayers go out to his mother and father in Iowa and all his family and friends. I understand that his loss has come as a shock to those living in and around Sac City where Adrian attended high school. I know that many Iowans will be saddened to learn of his fate.

At the same time, we can be very proud to call him a fellow Iowan. Spe-

cialist Hike was wounded in Iraq, receiving the Purple Heart. After several surgeries, he returned to duty and was even talking about reenlisting. This kind of selfless dedication to our Armed Forces and our country is what has kept us free since the founding of our Nation.

Adrian Hike's honorable service and tremendous sacrifice on behalf of the United States of America should never be forgotten. His was a true patriot and deserves to be remembered as such.

BREAST CANCER RESEARCH STAMP REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to thank all of my colleagues for their support in extending the highly successful breast cancer research stamp for 4 additional years.

This bill has the strong bipartisan support of Senator HUTCHISON and 61 other Senators from both sides of the aisle.

Without congressional action, this extraordinary stamp is set to expire on December 31 of this year, and it deserves to be extended.

This legislation would: Permit the sale of the breast cancer research stamp for 4 more years—until December 31, 2011; allow the stamp to continue to have a surcharge above the value of a first-class stamp with the surplus revenues going to breast cancer research programs at the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense, and not affect any other semipostal proposals under consideration by the U.S. Postal Service.

A recent report by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, released just last month, confirms that the breast cancer research stamp continues to be an effective fundraiser in the effort to increase funds to fight the disease.

Since the stamp first went on sale 9 years ago, over 790 million breast cancer research stamps have been sold by the U.S. Postal Service—raising \$57.8 million for breast cancer research.

These dollars have led to significant advances in the treatment of breast cancer through research at the National Institutes of Health, NIH, which receives 70 percent of the stamp's proceeds, and at the Department of Defense, DOD, which receives the remaining 30 percent of the proceeds.

For example, the GAO reported that: In 2006, NIH began to use the stamp's proceeds for a new program called the Trial Assigning Individualized Options for Treatment to help determine which breast cancer patients are most likely to benefit from chemotherapy. Dr. Susan Neuhausen at the University of California used an NIH award that has led to many insights into breast cancer risks—using both genetic and environmental data to further define the breast and ovarian cancer risk for individuals with a specific genetic mutation. Dr. Archbald Perkins at Yale University used a Department of Defense

award to do research to help with the prognosis of some breast cancers by using new techniques to identify novel genes involved in cancer.

In addition to raising much needed funds for breast cancer research, this wonderful stamp has also focused public awareness on this devastating disease, and it is just as necessary today as ever.

About 3 million women in the United States are living with breast cancer, 1 million of whom have yet to be diagnosed. This year alone, about 178,480 new cases of breast cancer will be diagnosed among American women. And one out of every 8 women nationwide will get breast cancer in her lifetime, with the disease claiming another woman's life every 13 minutes.

Extending the life of this remarkable stamp is crucial. With the sale of the breast cancer research stamp, every dollar we continue to raise will provide hope to breast cancer survivors and will help save lives until a cure is found.

Again, I thank my colleagues for supporting this important legislation.

TERRORISM REINSURANCE ACT EXTENSION

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I would like to address extension of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program or TRIA. I am strongly reminded of the words of the great economist Milton Friedman: "Nothing is so permanent as a temporary government program."

I remember quite clearly when the insurance industry requested a temporary Federal backstop after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. I cannot stress the word temporary strongly enough in this context. Industry witnesses testified before the Banking Committee that they only needed a temporary program in order to give the private markets time to adjust. I was also promised in private meetings that the program would only be temporary. Insurance industry representatives told me repeatedly that they would not come back to seek an extension of the program.

I was quite clear in expressing my disappointment with them when shortly after implementation of the program they began advocating for an extension. I very reluctantly supported the last extension because I believed it made progress in forcing the private sector to step up to the plate. I am here today, though, to say enough. I intend to hold the insurance industry accountable for their pledge of a temporary program by opposing the TRIA reauthorization bill.

I regret that those who utilize insurance are caught in the middle. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be another way to spur insurance industry action to address this problem. Unless they are forced to come up with solutions, they will simply continue to rely on the Federal Government.