

would decrease Federal subsidies to about 30 percent of passenger security costs, without reducing aviation security spending.

We can say that it is time to move toward universal coverage, but it is empty rhetoric without a feasible plan. I believe that this is the way to make universal coverage work in this country. Universal coverage doesn't mean that we have to copy a system already in place in another country. We can harness our Nation's creativity and entrepreneurial spirit to design a system that is uniquely American. Universal coverage doesn't have to be defined by what's been attempted in the past. What universal coverage does mean is providing a solution for a broken system where millions are uninsured, and where businesses and Americans are struggling under the burden of health care costs.

It has been over 10 years since the last serious debate over health care reform was killed by special interests and the soft money contributions they used to corrupt the legislative process. The legislative landscape is now much different. Soft money can no longer be used to set the agenda, and businesses and workers are crying out as never before for Congress to do something about the country's health care crisis.

We are fortunate to live in a country that has been abundantly blessed with democracy and wealth, and yet there are those in our society whose daily health struggles overshadow these blessings. That is an injustice, but it is one we can and must address. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." It is long past time for Congress to heed these words and end this terrible inequality. I urge my colleagues to support the State-Based Health Care Reform Act.

COMMEMORATING GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 75 years ago today, President Herbert Hoover signed a proclamation officially establishing the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont.

This was the result of significant effort on the part of the State of Vermont and several of the State's leading conservationists and legislators of the time. While a number of Vermonters had proposed a national forest in the State just after the turn of the 20th century, it took a sustained effort over the next three decades for this vision to become a reality.

In 1925, the Vermont General Assembly passed the enabling act to allow the Forest Service to purchase land in Vermont. Many would argue just 2 years later that the devastating impact of the 1927 flood showed the need for sound forest management practices in the Green Mountains. It was fitting that the initial land purchases for the southern half of Vermont's national

forest were from the estate of Marshall J. Hapgood, who, years earlier, had advocated for a National Forest in the Green Mountains. Hapgood was a practitioner of scientific forestry on his own lands and saw the value of a sustainable timber resource and watershed protection.

From that initial Hapgood acquisition of just over 1,000 acres, the Green Mountain National Forest has grown to more than 400,000 acres today, and it includes in the northern half of the forest many of the lands conserved by another conservation pioneer, Joseph Battell.

The Green Mountain National Forest today is fulfilling the vision of those early forestland stewards by protecting watersheds, providing forest products, forest management demonstration and recreational opportunities. The Green Mountain forest hosts segments of the Long and Appalachian Trails, alpine ski areas, several wilderness areas and two national recreation areas, one of which is now named in honor of our late colleague, Robert T. Stafford.

As one of Vermont's Senators, I am proud to have been able to play a role in the growth of the national forest in my State, in both land area and with its facilities. I am also grateful to the dedicated, professional staff of the Green Mountain National Forest who recently completed the new land and resource management plan for the forest and who were particularly helpful to the congressional delegation during our recent wilderness deliberations.

As we celebrate its 75th anniversary, we are also proud that the Green Mountain National Forest will be providing the 2007 Capitol Christmas tree for the National Mall, and the companion trees for many of our public buildings in Washington a tangible example of how the Green Mountain National Forest is being shared by all Americans.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNITION OF DR. MARY STRANAHAN

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Mary Stranahan. Dr. Stranahan is a retired medical doctor and an active philanthropist who lives in Arlee, MT. Arlee is a small town in western Montana located on the Flathead Indian Reservation in Lake County. Arlee is a place of incredible physical beauty, like so many places in Montana. But amid the beauty are poverty and economic challenges. Lake County ranks as one of the poorest counties in Montana. In her years as a practicing family physician in Lake County and on the reservation, Mary saw first-hand the relationship between limited economic opportunity and family health.

Since retiring from medicine, Dr. Stranahan has become immersed in the survival and success of local agri-

culture and mainstreet businesses. She knows agriculture and small business play a vital role in healthy rural communities. Over the years, Dr. Stranahan has, as a concerned individual, been a core donor for innumerable charities and non-profits in Montana.

But this year Dr. Stranahan is taking her philanthropic commitment to a whole new level in chartering the Montana Good Works Foundation. This new Montana foundation will work to focus Dr. Stranahan's grants and donations on social justice, rural community development, and sustainable business development in Montana.

In one of the Montana Good Works Foundation's first gifts, Dr. Stranahan has shown extraordinary leadership by giving \$1.42 million to the Montana Community Development Corporation. This gift kicks off MCDC's campaign to grow its loan fund for Montana businesses to \$15 million and it empowers MCDC to expand its business coaching services.

Dr. Stranahan has further committed to help Montana Community Development Corporation recruit more philanthropists to this important effort to build entrepreneurship in Montana.

I commend Dr. Stranahan for her great leadership in rural philanthropy. The Big Sky Institute reports that rural States like Montana are on the short end of a great disparity in foundation grant-making. The Big Sky Institute found that, adjusting for population, foundation grants to rural States are less than a fifth of the national average. After adjusting for population, foundation grants to rural States are less than a tenth of the amount received in the State of New York.

Last May, I spoke to the annual conference of the Council on Foundations in Pittsburgh, PA. I challenged foundations to double their grant-making to rural States within 5 years. And I am working with leaders in the nonprofit and foundations communities to convene a rural philanthropy conference in Missoula this August. I am proud of the progress we are making in rural philanthropy. And I look forward to working together with Montana philanthropists like Dr. Stranahan to keep the ball rolling.

I applaud Dr. Stranahan for the vision and the scope of her philanthropy. In particular, I commend her commitment to building rural entrepreneurs as a core philanthropic strategy. Dr. Stranahan is one of the new Montana leaders who are showing the world that Montana truly deserves its designation as the Treasure State.

I recognize and commend Dr. Mary Stranahan for her substantial efforts on behalf of Montana's communities and Montana's future.●

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRED OCHI

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I note the passing of a most distinguished and

talented Idaho artist and businessman, Fred I. Ochi, on February 18, 2007. Fred lived in my hometown of Idaho Falls and was best known throughout Idaho and the West for his beautiful paintings; barns were one of the trademark subjects of his Japanese-influenced art. Although known for his art work, Fred's life reflected a penchant for perseverance, business, and appreciation of the importance of art to communities.

Fred, a Japanese American, was born in California in 1913. After losing his mother at the young age of eight, Fred and his brother spent 3 years in Japan living with their grandparents. He returned to California where he studied art and became a theatre manager in the San Francisco Bay area in the 1930s. He found a public place for his artwork back then—movie marquees of the 17 theatres he managed. Due to the war, Fred was evacuated from California in 1942 and moved to southeastern Idaho, where he managed marquees for theatres there. Fred was an unfortunate victim of one of the darker periods in Idaho history; he had to be escorted by Idaho National Guard troops when people organized a protest against the theatres based on Fred's ethnicity.

Fred continued his life's work in Idaho Falls. He settled there in 1943 and spent the rest of his life working there, raising his children with his wife Yoshiko. The man who completed 10,000 watercolors over the course of his lifetime opened a commercial art and sign shop, and was a founding member of the Idaho Falls Art Guild. In Idaho Falls, he served as a longtime member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club. Fred left an indelible mark on arts in Idaho. He served as president of the Idaho Art Association and earned the 1998 Governors Award for Excellence in Art. During Idaho's State Centennial, Fred was named one of the "100 Citizens Who Made a Difference for the State."

Fred was generous with his talent, sharing it with students of all ages throughout Idaho and western Wyoming. Fred's ready smile and sense of humor was well-known: his business cards read "Smiling Irishman, Fred O'Shay." My sister Christine knew Fred well. Knowing of her interest in art, Fred would invite her to watch him work at his studio, the "log hut." She remembers his painting style as fast and powerful; he used many different brushes with big brush strokes. It was intentional and bright, like his personality.

Fellow Idaho Falls artist Gloria Miller Allen observed:

I will always remember him in old white dress shirts slightly spattered with paint, and with his glasses spattered as well. I can still see him in his red kimono selling paintings down by the river. Idaho Falls will miss this good man.

Fred's legacy lives on in his 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. He will be sorely

missed, and I offer his family my condolences and our gratitude for sharing Fred and his art and legacy with us all.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:42 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 362. An act to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 363. An act to authorize programs for support of the early career development of science and engineering researchers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 518. An act to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to authorize States to restrict receipt of foreign municipal solid waste and implement the Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste between the United States and Canada, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1675. An act to suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors.

H.R. 1676. An act to reauthorize the program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for loan guarantees for Indian housing.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 362. An act to authorize science scholarships for educating mathematics and science teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 363. An act to authorize appropriations for basic research and research infrastructure in science and engineering, and for support of graduate fellowships, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 518. An act to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to authorize States to restrict receipt of foreign municipal solid waste and implement the Agreement Concerning the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste between the United States and Canada, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1675. An act to suspend the requirements of the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding electronic filing of previous participation certificates and regarding filing of such certificates with respect to certain low-income housing investors; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 1676. An act to reauthorize the program of the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for loan guarantees for Indian housing; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1613. A communication from the Deputy Director for Regulations, Office of Pipeline Safety, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pipeline Safety: Design and Construction Requirements to Reduce Internal Corrosion in Gas Transmission Pipelines" (RIN2137-AE09) received on April 23, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1614. A communication from the Assistant Chief Counsel, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Materials: Revision of Requirements for Authorization of Use of International Standards" (RIN2137-AE01) received on April 23, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1615. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Part 95 Instrument Flight Rules (18)" ((RIN2120-AA63)(Amtd. No. 467)) received on April 23, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1616. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (127)" ((RIN2120-AA65)(Amtd. No. 3212)) received on April 23, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1617. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (8)" ((RIN2120-AA65)(Amtd. No. 3211)) received on April 23, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1618. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (85)" ((RIN2120-AA65)(Amtd. No. 3210)) received on April 23, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1619. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (11)" ((RIN2120-AA65)(Amtd. No. 3209)) received on April 23, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1620. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures (22)" ((RIN2120-AA65)(Amtd. No. 3208)) received on April 23, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1621. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Rolls-Royce Corporation 501-D Series Turboprop Engines" ((RIN2120-AA64)(Docket No. 2001-NE-01)) received on April 23, 2007; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1622. A communication from the Program Analyst, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Pratt