

verging on dangerous interference with the global climate system. This means making tremendous reductions quickly and ensuring that our energy decisions today do not warp the future for our children and generations to come.

As we celebrate Earth Day this year, I ask that you join me in thinking about the road ahead and how we will overcome this great environmental challenge that we face as Nevadans, Americans, and citizens of the world.

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today I recognize the National Week of the Young Child. This week provides all of us here in Washington the opportunity to reflect on the ways in which we can better care for children in our communities and more effectively cooperate with teachers, parents, and other caregivers.

Critical to the success of many disadvantaged Iowa children is the Head Start program. If we really want to get kids ready for school, we must focus on early intervention. This means improving access to education and developmental services to help provide kids with a good start in life. Since 1965, Head Start has served more than 24 million low-income children and their families.

Head Start programs help Iowa families to meet young children's basic educational, health, nutritional and social needs with a goal of having these kids ready for the first day of kindergarten. I was pleased to recently help modernize and update Head Start by passing The Head Start for School Readiness Act, which allows more families access to programs, improves early childhood training for Head Start educators, and updates learning standards to reflect the latest research in child development. I also made sure that early learning programs do not ignore the importance of wellness and healthy behaviors by requiring training to integrate physical activity and good nutrition in the classroom.

I have heard tremendous stories from my State of children whose lives were improved through the social services Head Start provides. These children received eye glasses or necessary dental work thanks to the early intervention of our Head Start programs. Head Start educators and employees often connect parents in need to the outreach services which help give children safe and comfortable homes.

I was particularly touched by the story of Rebecca Navarro. She writes that her youngest son, Anthony, received help learning his letters and colors, and improved his social skills, through their local Head Start agency.

At the same time, a Head Start social worker helped Ms. Navarro go back to school and receive her degree, pay for food and utilities and provide a better quality of life for Anthony and his four siblings. Anthony has now successfully graduated the 6th grade with math skills above his grade level, and plans on going to college and getting his master's degree in engineering and math.

Providing our Nation's youngest learners with the tools they need to succeed benefits not only those children and their families, but our Nation as well. While celebrating the victories of Head Start this week, we should also continue to work hard to ensure every child has the opportunity to reach his or her full potential.●

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN GOSPEL CHORALE

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a memorable trip recently taken by a group of students from University of Michigan. Each spring, many students head for warmer climates during spring break. However, the University of Michigan's Gospel Chorale, comprised of 40 students, spent this year's spring break accompanying university president Mary Sue Coleman and other faculty and staff to the nation of Ghana.

During this trip, the Michigan Gospel Chorale performed at churches, schools, colleges and public forums, including the National Theatre and the Kofi Annan International Peace-keeping Training Center, where they were warmly received. In fact, they performed before an audience of more than 2,500 at Ghana's National Theatre. One of their most moving performances occurred when the chorale sang in the dungeons of the Elmina Castle, where slaves were once held captive before they were transported across the ocean.

The purpose of the University's trip to Ghana was to strengthen existing relationships the University of Michigan has in Africa and to explore opportunities for new research programs and for faculty and student cultural exchanges. Currently, more than 120 University of Michigan faculty members are involved in various projects in Ghana and South Africa, and numerous students are taking courses or are involved in research activities.

As you know, the United States has a long history with Ghana, and that partnership continues to grow. The people of Ghana will remember the efforts of the University of Michigan and the Michigan Gospel Chorale's visit for a long time. For the Michigan Gospel Chorale, the journey provided a significant global learning experience. Many of the students had never traveled by air or had been out of the country. I am sure my colleagues agree that it is important for our young people to have opportunities to explore, and to con-

tribute to, our ever-expanding global community.

I know my colleagues join me in commending the University of Michigan and the Michigan Gospel Chorale for their outstanding efforts in fostering goodwill between the United States and the nation of Ghana.●

HOLD ON NOMINATION OF HARVEY E. JOHNSON

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, more than 40 months ago, prior to his confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff told me in my office that if confirmed he would move expeditiously to implement the National Emergency Technology Guard—NET Guard—program. Unfortunately, Secretary Chertoff has so far failed to honor this pledge.

The idea of NET Guard was born in the aftermath of 9-11, when a number of communications and technology companies told me they wanted to help New York City when it was attacked—and there was no system for using their volunteers. Then-Senator George Allen and I moved on a bipartisan basis to support a program, called NET Guard, that would ensure that volunteers with technology expertise could be fully utilized in future crises. These teams of local volunteers with science and technology expertise would be vital in assisting our communities in responding to attacks on communications networks, or recovering from natural disasters. Congress authorized the establishment of NET Guard 5 years ago, in the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

However, DHS has delayed and delayed and so far failed to implement this critical program.

At times, Secretary Chertoff has appeared willing to move forward on NET Guard, but each time he stops short of action. On August 1, 2007, the Secretary pledged to me in a letter that he would be submitting a request to fund the NET Guard program in the President's fiscal year 2009 budget. I will ask that a copy of Secretary Chertoff's letter be printed in the RECORD. I thought this meant that the Secretary recognized NET Guard's potential and understood Congress's intention in authorizing the program. Unfortunately he failed to fulfill this promise and we again find ourselves at an impasse.

I feel that further delay is unacceptable. I reluctantly feel that I must put a hold on the nomination of Harvey E. Johnson who has been nominated by President Bush to serve as Deputy Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, until the NET Guard program is up and running.

I place this hold reluctantly, but see no other option in light of the Department's foot dragging. I am hopeful that the Department will soon be able to stand up a NET Guard program, and I will be able to withdraw my hold and Mr. JOHNSON's nomination can move through the Senate. In the meantime, I

will object to any unanimous consent agreement to consider Mr. JOHNSON's nomination.

I ask that the letter to which I referred be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELAND SECURITY,
August 1, 2007.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WYDEN: Thank you for taking time this morning to discuss the Department of Homeland Security's plans for the National Emergency Technology Guard (NET Guard) program. Following my June 29, 2007 letter to you that outlined our program approach, and as a prelude to our discussion, members of the Department's NET Guard team briefed your staff on our proposed plan. The positive feedback from your staff, coupled with your positive feedback this morning and the positive feedback that we have received from State, local, and private sector stakeholders, gives us confidence that we are taking the right approach to implementing this important disaster response program.

Accordingly, the Department is moving forward with plans to implement 12-month NET Guard pilots beginning in September 2007. The recommendation to establish pilots in September is consistent with the NET Guard Scoping Initiative Report, which I will provide to you upon its completion this month. To fund our efforts in fiscal year 2007 and 2008, we will continue to work with Congressional appropriators. I will also submit a request to the White House Office of Management and Budget to fund the NET Guard program in fiscal year 2009. On these and other program matters, the Department's Office of Legislative Affairs will keep your staff apprised of our progress.

I appreciate your interest and support of the Department's disaster response mission and look forward to working with you on this and other issues.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL CHERTOFF. •

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2892. A bill to promote the prosecution and enforcement of frauds against the United States by suspending the statute of limitations during times when Congress has authorized the use of military force; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SALAZAR (for himself and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 2893. A bill to designate the Ludlow Massacre National Historic Landmark in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 2770

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2770, a bill to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to strengthen the food safety inspection

system by imposing stricter penalties for the slaughter of nonambulatory livestock.

S. 2874

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend titles 5, 10, 37, and 38, United States Code, to ensure the fair treatment of a member of the Armed Forces who is discharged from the Armed Forces, at the request of the member, pursuant to the Department of Defense policy permitting the early discharge of a member who is the only surviving child in a family in which the father or mother, or one or more siblings, served in the Armed Forces and, because of hazards incident to such service, was killed, died as a result of wounds, accident, or disease, is in a captured or missing in action status, or is permanently disabled, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 518

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. AL-EXANDER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 518, a resolution designating the third week of April 2008 as "National Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Week".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 2892. A bill to promote the prosecution and enforcement of frauds against the United States by suspending the statute of limitations during times when Congress has authorized the use of military force; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this country recently marked the 5-year anniversary of the war in Iraq—a war that the Bush administration refuses to end. The losses in this war have been staggering. More than 4,000 American soldiers have been killed and nearly 30,000 wounded. Hundreds of billions in taxpayer dollars has been spent to fight this war, money which could have been—and should have been—used to help American needs here at home. Estimates for the cost of the President's adventure in Iraq are now into the trillions.

Through it all, the Bush administration has chosen essentially to ignore one of its primary obligations during wartime—to protect American taxpayers from losses due to fraud, waste, and abuse of military contracts. Sadly, these problems are all too common in times of war, and have been particularly pervasive in Iraq.

Over the past year, I have chaired hearings in the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees focused on the billions that have been lost to contracting fraud, waste, and abuse during this war. The testimony at those hearings has exposed the Bush administration's failure to take aggressive action

to enforce and punish wartime fraud. It has also shown how difficult it can be for investigators to uncover and prosecute fraud amidst the chaotic environment of war.

These problems have been exacerbated time and time again by the Bush administration, as tens of billions of dollars in "no-bid" and "cost-plus" contracts have been awarded with little, if any, oversight or accountability. Billions in cash—physical, paper money—have been flown to Iraq and handed out in paper bags, often without records of who received what, and when. Billion dollar contracts for training services cannot be audited because the records are incomplete, lost, or in disarray. The Government has been billed for defective products, like faulty ammunition, unsafe bulletproof vests, and even unsanitary drinking water for the troops.

Too often we do not learn about serious fraud until years after the fact. What we do know is that tens of billions of dollars are unaccounted for, and potentially lost to fraud, and little has been done to hold anyone accountable and recover the lost money.

This problem is not entirely new. Our nation has faced challenges in past wars. During World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke out against "war millionaires" who made excessive profits exploiting the calamity of war. President Harry Truman, when he served in the Senate, held historic public hearings to expose gross fraud and waste by military contractors during the war.

Unlike the current President, however, Presidents Roosevelt and Truman took action to ensure that wartime fraud could be successfully investigated and prosecuted despite the difficulties presented by an ongoing war.

In 1942, President Roosevelt signed the Wartime Suspension of Limitations Act, which made it possible for criminal fraud offenses against the United States to be prosecuted after the war was over. President Truman signed a bill making that law permanent in 1948.

Everyone understood then that it was unrealistic to believe that all contracting fraud could be tracked down immediately in the midst of a war. The law provided for the suspension of the statute of limitations until the war was over. Congress supported this law overwhelmingly, as they had with a similar provision during World War I. President Roosevelt wrote: "The crisis of war should not be used as a means of avoiding just penalties for wrongdoing."

While the provision for post-war enforcement against fraud is still the law today, the ongoing conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are exempt from its requirements. This Roosevelt-era law only applies "when the United States is at war." The military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan were undertaken without Congressional declarations of war. In recent decades, Congress has