

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 118(c)(12)(H) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(12)(H)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other amounts authorized under this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this paragraph \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2010.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Not more than 20 percent of the funds appropriated pursuant to clause (i) for a fiscal year may be used to carry out subparagraph (F).”.

(g) PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM.—Section 118(c)(13)(B) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(13)(B)) is amended by striking “2008” and inserting “2010”.

SEC. 4. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

Section 106(b) of the Great Lakes Legacy Act of 2002 (33 U.S.C. 1271a(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any amounts authorized under other provisions of law, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2010.”.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 6460), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2786, and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2786) to reauthorize the programs for housing assistance for Native Americans.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a Dorgan substitute amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5647) was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under “Text of Amendments.”)

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill (H.R. 2786), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORITY TO REQUEST RETURN OF PAPERS

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to request the return of the papers on H.R. 3068 from the House of Representatives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATORS

WAYNE ALLARD

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today I wish Senator ALLARD well as he leaves the Senate, after 12 years here and 6 years in the other body. That is a long record of honorable service to the wonderful State of Colorado. During our time together in the Senate, I was very pleased to work with Senator ALLARD on a critical issue facing both our States: chronic wasting disease. I appreciated his commitment to fighting the spread of CWD, which was characteristic of his commitment to the people of Colorado throughout his time here. I wish him all the best as he leaves the Senate, and I thank him for his years of dedicated service to our country.

LARRY CRAIG

Mr. President, as Senator CRAIG retires from the Senate, I want to take a few moments to recognize him and thank him for his work on behalf of the people of Idaho. He devoted 18 years to serving the people of Idaho in the Senate, following 10 years of service in the House of Representatives. Senator CRAIG and I worked together in two very different, very important areas: protecting civil liberties and supporting America's dairy farmers. In both cases, he was dedicated to the best interests of the people of Idaho, and I am grateful for his efforts.

Senator CRAIG was a key member of the group of six Senators—three Republicans and three Democrats, including myself—who worked together to try to strengthen the protections for Americans' privacy rights in the Patriot Act reauthorization that we considered in the Senate during the 109th Congress. His willingness to work across party lines on that issue was commendable, and it was a critical boost to our efforts. Senator CRAIG understands the importance of protecting Americans' freedoms, and I applaud his commitment to these issues.

I also thank him for his consistent support of dairy farmers, another area

where we frequently worked together. Senator CRAIG and I shared concerns about the impact of the Australia free trade agreement on dairy farmers, on the threat of unsafe importation of milk protein concentrates, and on non-fat milk price reporting errors.

Once again on these issues, Senator CRAIG put the needs of the people of Idaho first, and reached across the aisle to protect hardworking dairy farmers. After 28 years of service in Congress, Senator CRAIG is retiring from the Senate, and I wish him all the best. His hard work and dedication have made a valuable contribution to the Senate and to the American people.

PETE DOMENICI

Mr. President, today I thank Senator DOMENICI for his 36 years of service here in the Senate, longer than any New Mexican in the State's history. I have had the pleasure of serving with Senator DOMENICI on the Budget Committee, where his leadership has been a cornerstone of the committee's work for decades. I have always appreciated his willingness to listen to and accommodate different points of view through the years. I also thank him for his work on biennial budgeting, something I also strongly support and was proud to work on with him.

Senator DOMENICI's commitment to mental health parity is well known and deserves special recognition. It is fitting that, on the eve of Senator DOMENICI's retirement, the Mental Health Parity Act of 2008, which he worked on with Senators DODD, KENNEDY and ENZI, should pass the Senate. I was pleased to cosponsor this bill and look forward to it being enacted.

Finally, I thank Senator DOMENICI for his vote in support of the McCain-Feingold legislation when it passed the Senate in 2002. It was his support, along with 59 other Senators, that gave us that victory after a long fight to ban soft money. I will always remember and appreciate his support, and I wish him all the best as he retires from the Senate.

CHUCK HAGEL

Mr. President, today I recognize the work of an outstanding colleague, Senator CHUCK HAGEL. As he leaves the Senate, there are many things he will be remembered for, and I will add a few to that long list. I have had the pleasure of serving with Senator HAGEL on both the Foreign Relations and Intelligence committees, where I have seen what a thoughtful and dedicated public servant he truly is. He has been an outspoken and independent voice on foreign policy, and against the current Administration's reckless foreign policies, including the disastrous war in Iraq.

In our time serving together in the Senate, we have worked on a number of bills relevant to our work on the Foreign Relations and Intelligence committees. Senator HAGEL and I authored a bill to address the serious threat posed to our national security by gaps in our intelligence gathering. Building

on the work of the 9/11 Commission, our legislation would establish an independent commission to improve how the U.S. Government collects and analyzes information, so that we can head off emerging threats. Senator HAGEL has brought critical attention to this issue, and I have no doubt he will continue to do so in the years ahead. I also appreciate Senator HAGEL's commitment to strengthening our citizen diplomacy, which is so important to improving the image of the U.S. abroad. His support for my Global Services Fellowship Program Act, and past efforts on this issue, has been just one more example of Senator HAGEL's willingness to reach across the aisle to work on issues important to our country.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs, I particularly appreciate Senator HAGEL's support for a more peaceful, secure, and prosperous Africa. He has supported efforts to help protect civilians and provide them with access to basic services. His voice has been one for political solutions to conflict, and for initiatives that would bring long-term stability to the continent.

Senator HAGEL has served the people of Nebraska, and America, with great dedication and skill. I will miss having him as a colleague, but I value his service and his friendship, and I wish him all the best as he leaves the Senate.

JOHN WARNER

Mr. President, today I thank Senator JOHN WARNER for his service to our country. Through his five terms in the Senate, and before that as Secretary of the Navy, Senator WARNER has been an outstanding public servant. In the Senate he has worked hard for our country, and for the people of Virginia. As chairman and now ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator WARNER has been a leader on a wide range of issues affecting our national security, and he has always approached those issues with the utmost determination to do what is best for the Nation and the American people.

Finally, I thank Senator WARNER for his vote in support of the McCain-Feingold legislation when it passed the Senate in 2002. It was his support, along with 59 other Senators, that gave us that victory after a long fight to ban soft money. I appreciate his effort on this and so many issues, and I thank him for his dedicated public service over so many years.

WAYNE ALLARD

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great U.S. Senator and friend, Senator WAYNE ALLARD. His strong political leadership will be greatly missed by the people of Colorado and the United States.

I got to serve with WAYNE on the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and the Senate Budget Committee. As fellow fiscal conservatives, we share many of the same values and concerns. One of his core beliefs, and mine, is that we must reduce wasteful government spending

and work to balance the Federal budget. This is a philosophy that WAYNE applied to every piece of legislation that came in front of him. It was important for him to do everything he could do as a public servant to save the taxpayers' money. I know that I could always count on WAYNE to follow these principals and stay true to his conservative roots.

As many of you know, WAYNE had a successful career as a veterinarian before he came to Congress. With the help of his wife Joan, they built a successful veterinary practice in Loveland, CO, where they raised their two daughters, Christi and Cheryl. As a veterinarian and as a U.S. Senator, WAYNE contributed more than most to the people of this country. He will be greatly missed by me here in the Senate, but I know he is looking forward to spending more time with his family back in Colorado. I wish WAYNE the best of luck as he begins the next chapter of his life.

LARRY CRAIG

Mr. President, I wish to join my fellow Senators to honor a colleague and a friend, Senator LARRY CRAIG, who is departing the U.S. Senate at the close of this Congress. I have enjoyed working with Senator CRAIG over the last 20 years—first in the U.S. House of Representatives and later in the U.S. Senate.

While in the Senate, I have had the great fortune of serving with LARRY on the Senate Energy Committee. He is a revered advocate of energy, public lands, and rural community issues. The two of us have stood together on numerous issues—most notably energy—and I have always believed that we could achieve any task because I had his voice of reason and intellect by my side.

Senator CRAIG has shown the ability to keep a close eye on issues that matter most to citizens back in Idaho, while also looking out for all Americans. Whether the issue of the day was rural schools, western ranchers, public water, innovative forms of energy, and yes, even wolves, Senator CRAIG has proven that he is up for any challenge.

I would be mistaken to not mention the extraordinary work Senator CRAIG has done as a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. His work has been instrumental to ensure that all citizens who are part of our armed services—including servicemembers, family members and survivors of veterans—are provided the world-class care and benefits they have earned. I thank him for his relentless efforts to improve the lives of those who have worn the uniform.

I thank the senior Senator from Idaho for his leadership and contributions to public service for the people of Idaho and all Americans. I honor Senator LARRY CRAIG not only for his length of service but more importantly his quality of service. I wish him and his loved ones all the best of health for many years to come.

PETE DOMENICI

Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a great U.S. Senator and friend, Senator PETE DOMENICI. His tireless work as New Mexico's longest serving Senator in history has greatly benefitted the people of his State and the United States of America. I am proud to have served with such a great statesman.

During his time in the Senate, PETE has been instrumental in passing thousands of pieces of legislation on many different issues. However, I got the distinct honor of serving with him on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where he serves as the ranking member and former chairman. Over the years, he has been instrumental in passing comprehensive energy legislation to help our Nation adapt to changing energy needs and demands. By working side by side with PETE on the committee, I have gotten to witness firsthand the hard work he puts into every piece of legislation that comes before him. He also has the ability to reach across the aisle to other Senators who routinely join him in passing bipartisan bills to benefit our country. I know that I can speak for all of my colleagues, when I say that PETE's absence will be felt by all of us.

While I will greatly miss my friend's leadership on the Senate floor and in the Energy Committee, I know that he is looking forward to retirement and being able to spend some much-deserved time off with his wife Nancy and their family. I want to thank PETE for his contributions here in the Senate and wish him and his family well as they enter into a new chapter in their lives.

JOHN WARNER

Mr. President, I would like to honor my friend from Virginia, Senator JOHN WARNER. JOHN and I have been friends since I was elected to the Senate in 1998.

As a true Virginian, JOHN has dedicated his life to serving his country. At the age of 17 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy beginning his long career of public service. After serving on active military duty in both World War II and the Korean war, JOHN went on to serve in the Department of the Navy, and led the Department as Secretary from 1972-1974.

Elected in 1978, JOHN is the second longest serving Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia in the history of the Senate. JOHN has served the people of Virginia well for 30 years and I know his family and the people of Virginia are proud to call him one of their own.

JOHN has a long list of accomplishments to show for the people of Virginia and the Nation. His leadership in the Senate will be missed and it has truly been an honor serving with him.

I would like to thank JOHN for his contributions to the Senate and wish him well as he opens a new chapter to his life.

CHUCK HAGEL

Mr. President, today I pay tribute to my distinguished colleague from Nebraska, Senator CHUCK HAGEL, who will be retiring from the Senate at the conclusion of the 110th Congress.

I have worked with CHUCK since coming over to the Senate in 1998. I have also had the privilege of serving on the Senate Banking Committee with CHUCK. He is a man of integrity and patriotism. CHUCK has served his country proudly throughout the years, whether it be working as a staffer for Congressman John McCollister of Nebraska, as Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration, as U.S. Senator, or earning the Purple Heart while defending the freedoms we enjoy today. He has a servant's heart and the people of Nebraska should be proud to have been represented by a man of his character.

I am honored to know him and to have worked with him. I would like to thank CHUCK for his contributions to the Senate and to the country we both love. I wish him and his family the best in all of their future endeavors.

DC GUN LAWS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in strong opposition to H.R. 6842, which would repeal the commonsense gun laws of the District of Columbia.

I believe this bill is reckless and irresponsible, and will lead to more weapons and violence on the streets of our Nation's Capital. It will endanger the citizens of the District of Columbia, the government employees who work there, our elected officials, and anyone who visits Washington, DC.

The House bill repeals laws promoting public safety, including DC laws that the U.S. Supreme Court indicated were permissible under the 2nd amendment in the Heller decision.

I strongly disagree with the Supreme Court's decision in Heller that the 2nd amendment gives individuals a right to possess guns for private purposes not related to state militias, and that the Constitution does not permit a general ban on handguns in the home.

However, it is important to note that Heller also stands for the proposition that reasonable, commonsense gun regulations are entirely permissible.

Justice Scalia, who wrote the majority opinion in Heller, noted that a wide variety of gun laws are "presumptively lawful," including laws "forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places" and regulations governing the "conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms." Even bans on "dangerous and unusual weapons" are completely appropriate under the Heller decision.

The House bill completely ignores this language and takes the approach that all guns, for all people, at all times is the only way to go after Heller.

It is worth noting just how far the House bill goes in repealing DC law and

just how unsafe it will make the streets of DC.

The bill would do the following: It would repeal DC's ban on semi-automatic weapons, including assault weapons.

If this bill becomes law, military-style assault weapons with high capacity ammunition magazines will be allowed to be stockpiled in homes and businesses in the District, even near Federal buildings like the White House.

Even the .50 caliber sniper rifle, with a range of over 1 mile, will be allowed in DC under the House bill. This is a weapon capable of firing rounds that can penetrate concrete and armor plating. And at least one model of the .50 caliber sniper rifle is easily concealed and transported. One gun manufacturer describes it as a "lightweight and tactical" and capable of being collapsed and carried in "a very small inconspicuous package."

There is simply no good reason why anyone needs semi-automatic assault weapons in an urban city. It is unfathomable to me that the same high-powered sniper-rifle used by our Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan will be permitted in our Nation's Capital. Yet this is exactly what the House bill would allow if passed by the Senate.

The House bill would repeal existing Federal anti-gun trafficking laws. For years, Federal law has banned gun dealers from selling handguns directly to out-of-State buyers who are not licensed firearm dealers. This has greatly helped in the fight against illegal interstate gun trafficking, and has prevented criminals from traveling to other States to buy guns.

The House bill repeals this longstanding Federal law and allows DC residents to cross State lines to buy handguns in neighboring States. Illegal gun traffickers will be able to easily obtain large quantities of firearms outside of DC and then distribute those guns to criminals in DC and surrounding States.

The House bill repeals DC law restricting the ability of dangerous and unqualified people to obtain guns.

The bill also repeals many of the gun regulations that the Supreme Court said were completely appropriate after Heller. It repeals the DC prohibition on persons under the age of 21 from possessing firearms, and it repeals all age limits for the possession of long guns, including assault weapons. The House bill even repeals the DC law prohibiting gun possession by people who have poor vision. Unbelievably, under the House bill, DC would be barred from having any vision requirement for gun use, even if someone is blind.

The House bill repeals all firearm registration requirements in Washington, DC. The bill repeals all registration requirements for firearms, making it even more difficult for law enforcement to trace guns used in crimes and tracing them to their registered owner.

The House bill repeals all existing safe storage laws and prohibits DC from enacting any more safe storage laws. After the Heller decision, DC passed emergency legislation allowing guns to be unlocked for self-defense, but requiring that they otherwise be locked to keep guns from children and criminals. The House bill prevents the DC City Council from enacting new legislation to replace the emergency law, as well as from enacting any laws that "discourage" gun ownership or require safe storage of firearms.

Every major gun manufacturer recommends that guns be kept unloaded, locked, and kept in a safe place. Under the House bill, DC could not enact any legislation requiring that guns be stored in a safe place, even in homes with children.

How can anyone believe that enacting these provisions in the House bill and eliminating DC's commonsense gun laws is the right thing to do?

The American people clearly do not agree with the House bill. A recent national poll found that 69 percent of Americans oppose Congress passing a law to eliminate Washington, DC's, gun laws. Additionally, 60 percent of Americans believe that Washington, DC, will become less safe if Congress takes that step.

As a former mayor who saw firsthand what happens when guns fall into the hands of criminals, juveniles, and the mentally ill, I believe that the House bill places the families of the District of Columbia in great jeopardy.

The bill puts innocent lives at stake. It is an affront to the public safety of the District of Columbia, as well as the right to home rule by its citizens.

This isn't just a bad law, it is a dangerous one. If this bill comes to the floor of the U.S. Senate, I will do everything in my power to stop it.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, on June 26, 2008, in the landmark District of Columbia v. Heller decision, the United States Supreme Court decisively confirmed what Oklahomans have known for a long time: we as Americans have an individual right to legally possess and use a firearm.

Prior to the Heller decision, DC, had the most restrictive gun control laws in the country. The District effectively banned handguns in homes and required all licensed firearms to be unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock or similar device.

Not only did the Supreme Court deem the DC gun ban unconstitutional, it also positively affirmed that "(t)he Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home."

I was very satisfied with the Supreme Court's decision in District of Columbia v. Heller. Before the Supreme Court heard this case, the entire Oklahoma delegation signed onto an amicus brief to the Supreme Court, urging the