

our Intelligence Community released an assessment of the connections between health and our national interests abroad. They found that infectious diseases—whether HIV/AIDS or SARS—as well as general maternal and child mortality and the availability of healthcare can have significant impacts on the economies, governments, and militaries of key countries and regions. Moreover, their assessment found that U.S. global health assistance provides substantial opportunities to advance diplomacy, support stabilization in Iraq and Afghanistan, engage constructively with the rising powers of China and India, and ease tensions within the developing world. I urge my colleagues to look at this report if they have not already.

I have seen firsthand—as I know many Americans have—the tremendous good will generated for the United States by our leadership in global health. This has been especially true in sub-Saharan Africa. Just last December, I traveled to Tanzania and visited a health center funded by U.S. assistance that treats pregnant women and malaria patients. Over recent years, as we have tried to reverse a growing trend of anti-Americanism around the world, our health assistance has been a critical tool toward that goal. New levels of U.S. engagement in global health have spurred thousands of Americans to become involved in service abroad and build cross-border relationships that foster mutual understanding. I strongly believe the power of citizen diplomacy cannot be understated in an increasingly interconnected world.

For these reasons and more, I believe it is essential that we continue to lead in global health. It should not be a question of whether we do so, but a question of how we do so in a time of limited resources. We need an approach that maximizes efficiency, demonstrates real results, and fully leverages our programs toward our broader foreign policy objectives. American taxpayers should be confident that they are getting the most for their money. That is why I believe that, more than ever, we must develop a global health strategy that is all inclusive, integrated and sustainable.

Let me explain what I mean when I say those three things: all-inclusive, integrated and sustainable. First, all-inclusive. We all know that the current U.S. approach to global health has been focused on one disease, HIV. This is understandable, especially with tens of millions of people still affected and more being infected every day. Our efforts in this area must continue. However, a failure to simultaneously address other common infectious diseases can limit our progress toward combating the AIDS pandemic, as well as promoting overall health. This is especially the case with malaria, which continues to kill over a million people each year despite the fact that we have simple, affordable tools to prevent and treat it. I plan to work with my col-

leagues in Congress and the Obama administration to continue and build upon the efforts of President Bush's Malaria Initiative. At the same time, we cannot forget there is much work to be done to address tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases, and we must not give up on the goal of eradicating polio. Our efforts in each of these areas should be brought together under a comprehensive vision that also incorporates the preventable and treatable illnesses that kill millions of men, women, and children each year. In fact, developing a plan to address the basic challenges to child and maternal health should be the foundation of our global health work, not a secondary initiative.

By "all inclusive," I am also talking about the means by which we seek to pursue our overall global health objectives. Too often, restrictions or requirements on U.S. health assistance have limited our flexibility to effectively balance prevention and treatment measures, or to pursue evidence-based approaches. This has especially been the case with regard to reproductive health and family planning initiatives, which I believe have an essential role to play if we are to stem the tide of HIV infections or reduce maternal mortality. To that end, I am pleased that President Obama recently overturned the Mexico City policy. I hope we can now move past the ideological divisions surrounding this policy as we develop and implement a truly comprehensive approach to advancing our global health objectives.

It is not enough, though, to balance and bring all of our initiatives together under one umbrella; they must also be integrated. In many places, U.S. health programs remain fragmented on the ground and not well coordinated with each other. For example, we are funding some HIV/AIDS clinics that do not provide testing for malaria or tuberculosis even though these diseases often co-exist. As another example, we support some programs to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV that are entirely disconnected from the provision of basic services in maternal and child health. This lack of integration is inefficient, places a great burden on patients, and can ultimately render our efforts ineffective. Just as it is important to have a comprehensive strategy, it is critical that its many parts are well coordinated. Greater integration can also ensure that our global health programs are working in support of, not against, building stronger health systems.

This brings me to the third and what I believe is perhaps the most important point in developing a global health strategy: the need to place greater emphasis on sustainability. Perhaps the greatest challenge facing the global health community today is addressing the continuing weaknesses in health infrastructure around the world. I am concerned that our current programs have not done enough to address those

infrastructure weaknesses, and in some cases may even be perpetuating them. We need to not only devote more resources and attention to strengthening indigenous health systems that can meet national and local needs, but we need to do so effectively by engaging with local communities and governments to understand where there are gaps and where the needs are greatest. Such a strategy includes help to recruit, train, and retain a new health workforce. Toward that goal, I was pleased to work with Senators DURBIN and Coleman in the last Congress to introduce the Africa Health Care Capacity Act, and I hope to continue working on this issue in this new Congress. Until developing countries have the healthcare professionals and infrastructure they need, we will continue to fight an uphill battle for decades to come against HIV/AIDS and other global health challenges.

The time is now to put in place an all-inclusive and robust strategy for global health. By doing so, we can help ensure that our leadership in global health is a good investment for the American taxpayer and that the world's sick and vulnerable can see the results so desperately needed. I look forward to working with the Obama administration and my colleagues on these issues this Congress.

HOH INDIAN TRIBE SAFE HOMELANDS ACT

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I rise today in support of the introduction of the Hoh Indian Tribe Safe Homelands Act, introduced by Senator MURRAY and myself on Friday, February 13, 2009. This piece of legislation is needed so that the Hoh tribe can move their village out of harm's way.

The Hoh tribe occupies a 1-square-mile reservation on the banks of the Hoh River where it meets the Pacific Ocean in Washington State. Due to repeated storms, heavy rain, and the movement of the Hoh River, the tribe's village is threatened with flooding every winter. Ninety percent of the reservation now sits in a flood plain, and 100 percent of the land they reside on sits within a tsunami zone.

Many of the buildings located on the existing reservation are permanently sandbagged due to the threat of flooding, and several houses have been lost to the river over the last 10 years. The tribe's wastewater treatment plant has also been threatened by flooding on multiple occasions.

This legislation will allow the tribe to move out of danger by transferring a 26 acre piece of Federal land to the tribe. This parcel of land is needed to connect the existing reservation with land the tribe has obtained on their own. Once the old village is collected with the land the tribe already owns they can move their entire village out of harm's way.

Transferring ownership of a piece of Federal land should never be taken

lightly, and this case is no exception. However, the Hoh tribe is in a desperate situation. By transferring this small piece of land to the tribe and taking it into trust we can help the tribe remove themselves from a dangerous situation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE ASHLAND-BOYD COUNTY AND CATLETTSBURG POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I would like to recognize the Ashland-Boyd County and Catlettsburg Police Athletic League. The League, a community youth center, strives to improve the lives of children through a variety of activities. The League's goal is to prevent young people from immersing themselves in drugs and other unruly behaviors, as well as giving them a safe place to go.

The Ashland-Boyd County and Catlettsburg Police Athletic League was formed 6 months ago and invites young people from Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia. The League introduces young people to many different activities, including exercise, sports and video games, and hopes to incorporate dance, martial arts, and the fine arts into its curriculum.

Currently more than 50 teenagers have registered with the organization and more are interested in joining. The League also has plans of opening a second facility due to a growing interest.

Again, I thank the Ashland-Boyd County and Catlettsburg Police Athletic League for giving young Kentuckians a safe place for mental and physical growth. I wish all the best in the future.●

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE CUMBERLANDS

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I congratulate the University of the Cumberland. The Corporation for National and Community Service awarded the University of the Cumberland with a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest Federal recognition a school can achieve for dedication to community-based service projects. Honored institutions are chosen from a series of factors, including the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning and the percentage of student participation in service activities.

The University of the Cumberland encourages student involvement in nearby communities by asking that each student complete forty hours of community service by graduation. Students with two hundred hours of community service are eligible to be named Hutton Scholars at Commencement. The university's student run organization, the Mountain Outreach program, has built 125 homes for local families in need of assistance, in the last 25 years.

Again, I congratulate the University of the Cumberland for being named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. I hope that its leadership in community outreach serves as an inspiration to others in Kentucky and in the Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO THE 3RD BRIGADE, 98TH DIVISION, 108TH TRAINING COMMAND

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I pay tribute to the men and women in the 3rd Brigade, 98th Division, 108th Training Command in Lexington, KY, for receiving the 2008 Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Award.

For those who are not familiar with this award, it recognizes National Guard and Reserve units who have displayed exceptional family readiness, while sustaining superior military readiness. This award was created in 2000 to recognize these outstanding military units.

The men and women of the 108th Training Command in Lexington have shown that they value each and every family of their unit and remain committed to maintaining healthy relationships at home while they serve elsewhere. The U.S. military is the greatest fighting force in the world. I am proud that the best of the best hail from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

I now ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 108th Training Command for their distinguished accomplishment. They truly make Kentucky and the entire country proud of their service.●

HONORING NORTHERN KENTUCKY FIREFIGHTERS

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, today I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating four northern Kentucky firefighters for receiving awards from the Northern Kentucky Firefighters Association: Darlene Payette of Independence, Richard Messingschlager of Kenton County, Clayton James of Newport, and Larry Cappel of Covington.

These brave firefighters have dedicated their lives to helping other people, and each is deserving of their prestigious award. Each award speaks of the character of these individuals.

Darlene Payette received the Emergency Medical Service Award for her actions at Summit Medical in Nicholson during a full arrest in April 2008. During this situation, Ms. Payette's leadership and professionalism allowed her to resuscitate an individual under extreme circumstances.

Richard Messingschlager was awarded the Chief Officer of the Year. His lifelong contributions to firefighting in Kenton County, northern Kentucky, and the Commonwealth serve as an inspiration to firefighters across the State.

Clayton James received the Firefighter of the Year award for dem-

onstrating leadership during the September wind storm and using the recent training he received to set up the National Incident Management System for Newport. His acts led to bringing fire, police, public works, and utility companies together under one command center.

Larry Cappel was honored with the Fire Prevention/Education and Safety Award for his inventive approaches of teaching fire prevention and safety to residents of Covington.

I am humbled and grateful that these citizens serve the people of the Commonwealth, and I know their coworkers are proud to work alongside of them.

Madam President, I would like to thank these individuals for their contributions to the State of Kentucky, and I wish them well as they continue to protect our citizens.●

RECOGNIZING KENTUCKY'S FIRST RESPONDERS

• Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, for the last month the attention of the Senate has been focused on the Nation's economic troubles. However, while this is very important legislation, my attention has also been focused on the thousands of Kentuckians who were impacted by the ice storm in my State.

This storm caused the greatest electrical outage in Kentucky history, with over 600,000 people losing power and forcing many to evacuate their homes. Of the 120 counties in Kentucky, 91 were forced to declare a state of emergency. In response, the Kentucky governor was forced to call up 4,600 National Guard troops to assist our first responders. This was the largest mobilization of the Guard in our State's history. This situation could have been much worse if not for the efforts of Kentucky's public safety officials and the Kentucky National Guard. These individuals worked around the clock to ensure that their neighbors had the help they needed during this crisis.

There are many stories of people going beyond the call of duty to assist their fellow citizens. National Guard units went door to door to ensure that people had all the supplies they needed until power was restored. Volunteers kept open shelters and soup kitchens to make sure families had places to sleep and eat. All of these unsung heroes have my respect and admiration.

In closing I am grateful for the efforts of all the first responders across my State including the many volunteers from the Salvation Army, Red Cross, and countless other volunteer organizations that helped to limit the devastation caused by this storm. While I wish that this disaster had never occurred, I am very proud of the way all Kentuckians banded together to support each other during this time of need.●