

added to Article 93 of the UCMJ. Since females do not deserve to be harassed sexually, or in any other manner, soldiers, regardless of sex, do not deserve to be harassed or chastised for being mentally ill. They deserve treatment. Therefore, I recommend Article 93 be amended to emphasize that any forms of stigma towards soldiers, regardless of rank, be a violation of the article.

MEDICAL EVALUATION BOARDS (MEB)

Medical evaluation board (MEB) proceedings should be commenced for all soldiers demonstrating symptoms of mental illness, regardless of the symptoms or the illness. An MEB establishes a disability rating, and the soldier is separated under honorably. Subsequently, he or she is able to obtain VA medical care for a service-connected disability, and may request disability percentage increases if his or her condition worsens. If a psychiatrist diagnoses a soldier with a "personality disorder," the soldier should not be separated under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200 governing personality disorders. He or she shall be medically separated with a disability rating.

CONCLUSION

As mentioned in the abstract, this correspondence involves recommendations and proposals that may already have been taken into consideration, or implemented within the Army. This correspondence is not intended in any way to insult the Army in any way. Its primary purpose is to attempt to assist with the prevention of suicides within the Army, regardless of whether soldiers are deployed or not. Too many soldiers have taken their lives over the past few years for unknown reasons. However, I have seen first hand soldiers take their own lives due to failed leadership. It is time to be proactive, and ensure more preventive measures are taken. Soldiers are human beings, not super heroes. Hence, missions cannot be completed without healthy soldiers on the front lines.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, our next big objective is health care reform.

We have a unique opportunity to move forward on health reform this year. Now we must act. We simply cannot afford to wait any longer to fix our Nation's health care system.

We must work together to reduce health care costs, improve quality, and make coverage affordable for all Americans.

In the Finance Committee, we have held 13 hearings to prepare for health reform. Last week, we held a hearing on our Nation's health care workforce. The hearing examined ways to address our current workforce needs. The hearing considered ways to prepare our medical providers for health care reform.

At our hearing, four experts in the field testified about current health care workforce shortages, especially in primary care and nursing, and the witnesses told us that we must address these health workforce needs to meaningfully reform our health system.

Dr. David Goodman, the director of the Center for Health Policy Research, said: "The workforce we train today will shape, for good or bad, tomorrow's health system."

Dr. Goodman continued, "It will be hard to improve access, achieve better

health outcomes and decrease health care expenditure growth rates unless we get workforce policy right."

I could not agree more.

Our efforts on health care reform are only as strong as our Nation's health care providers—the nurses, doctors, and other professionals—who are on the front lines caring for patients.

Investing in our health care workforce is critical as we work to expand health insurance coverage to millions of currently uninsured Americans.

During our hearing, Dr. Allan Goroll, a primary care doctor and professor at Harvard University, told us about the Massachusetts experience following the enactment of State health reform. Dr. Goroll said that some newly insured people in Massachusetts are waiting up to 2 months to get a doctor's appointment. That is simply unacceptable.

For our health care reform efforts to succeed, we must directly address these health workforce challenges.

It starts with primary care. Our current system greatly undervalues primary care. As a result, fewer students are going into the field. A recent study found that only 1 in 50 medical students plans a career in primary care internal medicine. That is down from more than one in five in the early 1990s. This trend is especially troubling, because it is clear that a strong primary care system is a key determinant of high quality, efficient medical care.

During our hearing, we learned that areas of the country with a high proportion of primary care doctors spend less money on health care. And patients there have the same or better outcomes.

We need to invest in our Nation's primary care providers to help improve the quality of our medical care and to bring down health care costs.

Our workforce challenges extend beyond primary care. Our Nation's hospitals continue to face a nursing shortage. Recent news reports tell of shortages of general surgeons and dentists in rural areas. Many parts of the country need more mental health practitioners. And the list could go on.

We need to tackle these challenges head-on. We need to place our Nation's health care workforce on sound footing. And we need to meet the medical needs of all Americans.

This is going to require a renewed focus on the way that we pay for and deliver health care. We must ensure our payment systems reward high quality medical care and encourage medical students to go into critical fields like primary care.

And we are going to need to take a hard look at our national workforce policies to make sure that our health care providers have the right training and skills to deliver excellent care.

This effort is vital for our health reform efforts to succeed. So let's get to work now.

Let's work together to strengthen our Nation's health care workforce.

Let's build a health care system that delivers high-quality medical care for everyone. And let's act now.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Read below and explain why you or anyone would vote to stop drilling when the country is in such turmoil. Please [tell me why so many people have plenty while] I struggle with student loans that I just paid a company to try and get eliminated. If you want to help me, call the Department of Education and tell them to forgive my student loans. I paid [a company] \$399 to get my loans discharged, so make a call and tell Department of Education to just do it without me suing them. It is said you get a denial letter, then you go to a lawyer just like for disability. Well, here is your chance to help an Idaho teacher that just lost her job due to mismanaged funds with [a local school district]. They are \$2 million in debt so they [laid off several teachers and para-educators]. So I am asking for help.

BLOCKED IN D.C.

Investors Business Daily estimates there are 1 trillion barrels of oil trapped in shale in the U.S. and Canada. Retrieving just a 10th of it would quadruple our current oil reserves. There is a pool of oil in the Gulf of Mexico that is estimated to be as large as any in the Middle East. There is an equally large pool believed to be in Alaska.

The Chinese are attempting to tap into the Gulf oil supply by drilling diagonally from Cuba. I wonder what environmental safeguards they are using?

The fact is that there are environmentally safe methods of extracting oil from shale and drilling in both the Gulf and Alaska. Congress, however, continues to block these efforts. Just last week, the Senate voted to block any extraction from shale in Colorado. In essence, they voted to make your trips to the gas station more expensive, to make air travel more expensive, and to make heating your home more expensive. That is something to think about in an election year.

Another topic: Social Security

Another issue that concerns many Americans these days is the sustainability of

major entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare. With all of Congress' talk about "saving and preserving" these programs, consider these facts about Social Security:

When Social Security (FICA) was introduced it was promised:

Participation in the program would be completely voluntary.

Participants would only have to pay 1% of the first \$1,400 of their annual incomes into the program.

The money the participants elected to put into the program would be deductible from their income for tax purposes each year.

MARY.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my feelings about national energy policy. I cannot understand the thinking of most of the politicians I hear about. If I want to maintain my freedom personally, I make sure I am as self-reliant as possible. I make sure I live within my income. I make sure I own the things I will need to sustain my lifestyle so I have control over them such as homes, cars, tools, computers, supplies, etc. especially if I need them on a long term basis. I rent them only when they are needed temporarily or I am not in a situation to purchase at the time. If I do not produce my own perishables or consumables such as food, water, fuel, etc., I try to make sure I have a good supply in case my sources get interrupted. The comparison I am trying to make is if we in the USA have the energy available why do not we develop it and use it. It is like we are renting our energy from someone else and they just raised the rent real high.

I am surprised we have not had more problems already with most of our energy coming from other countries. I realize some countries do not have access to large resources of energy and have to rely on other countries to supply it and their ability to decide their future is in great jeopardy. I realize too that some groups of people do not want us to be independent from the rest of the world and therefore try to keep us dependent on other countries as much as possible.

The USA has the technology and resources to become completely independent energywise from the rest of the world. Nuclear energy is a proven and very safe energy source of which we have abundant supplies of fuel material, especially if we reprocess our own spent fuel waste. We have vast amounts of coal that can be used in a clean way and converted to petroleum like fuels (synthetic gas and diesel) with the help of nuclear reactors to produce the hydrogen and heat needed. I think there is plenty of room for renewable energy too. We should use all our resources and have a diverse source of energy recovery methods from wind turbines to nuclear energy and yes even coal, oil, and oil shale. Electric cars are the best solution in some cases but not most. Mass transit works in some places but again not all. Strict pollution controls may be needed in Los Angeles but not in most places in Idaho. I guess the beauty of the "anthropogenic global warming" crisis (at least for the control-oriented groups) is it says everyone no matter where they live are polluters and need to be regulated and controlled. If you can control someone's resources you can control them and access to energy is needed to develop resources and have freedom.

If we can get to the moon and send probes to other planets, we can certainly solve our own energy needs if that were our goal. The problem I see is that that is not the goal of most politicians. Their goal seems to be to breed dependence on the government (and themselves so they can get reelected) and other countries and restrict our freedoms. We go from one crisis to another until they

claim they need to have complete control over everything to keep us safe and happy.

I believe we have the technology to extract this energy in clean environmentally-friendly ways. I believe we should be drilling offshore and in ANWR. I realize this is not going to do much to the price of gas right now but it is a medium term solution that will influence energy prices in 10-30 years. A long-term solution is to start using more nuclear energy and developing ways to produce transportation fuels from additional resources such as coal or better electric storage devices or hydrogen etc. Suing OPEC sounds like a bullying technique. Why bite the hand that is currently feeding us? If we demonstrated we were serious about becoming more energy independent, I would bet the price of oil would drop fast in hopes that it would discourage us from doing so. What part of the simple economic principle of supply and demand do most politicians not get?

BILL, *Rexburg.*

This country has been on a gas-guzzling binge for fifty years. I am sick and tired of hearing people complain about the cost of gas, driving solo in their inefficient cars, and unwilling to carpool or contribute towards mass transit options.

We do not need to expand domestic petroleum production. We need to learn conservation and seek alternative energy sources. The "God given right" to tear up the landscape for oil and selfish use is at the heart of what is wrong with people and their mind-set on a global scale.

Wake up and smell the coffee.

Love and light,

PAMELA.

Thank you for the invitation to share my views on the energy situation. Although gas prices have increased significantly lately, I do not think times are as tough as the media portrays. My grandparents have experienced far worse times than this current period.

Nonetheless, this issue still requires action. I think the best thing Congress can do in the short term is to increase domestic production. This involves several things, specifically getting more refineries built and allowing for drilling in ANWR. I am also a supporter of getting shale oil production started in the US.

In the long term, Congress should provide tax credits for those willing to pursue alternative fuels. Nuclear and hydrogen seem like excellent options. I am not in favor of corn-based ethanol and believe it is an inefficient use of our resources.

Further, Congress has no basis for establishing a windfall profit tax on oil companies. This is inappropriate government intervention. The consequences would be felt and mostly paid for by consumers. This tax would not be a remedy but a hindrance in solving our situation. Please always oppose any legislation of this form.

Thank you for your time. And please act promptly!

JEFF.

Thank you for taking time to read our story. First, with gas prices on the rise, my husband gets grumpy and grumpier. That means less happiness in our home and our marriage. That is a very personal effect. Our children live in Logan, Utah; Nampa, Idaho; Kirksville, Missouri; and Cleveland, Ohio. High fuel costs mean seeing our family less often, which makes me grumpy. My husband and I miss our grandchildren and children quite a bit. Since we have a business and have to pay for delivery trucks, marketing vehicles and other business costs, such as continuing education, utilities, merchandise, etc.—higher fuel costs means lower profit

margins. It would be nice to be able to drive tiny vehicles but the winters are so severe here in Southeastern Idaho, we feel safer in a four-wheel drive unit which, of course, costs more to run. Fuel prices affect the cost of everything we buy, such as food, clothing and shelter. I do believe they are necessary. I am working on my college degree so higher fuel costs make my education costs increase, such as delivery costs for books, teaching materials, etc. We do try to conserve by walking, running errands all at one time but if there is an emergency with any of our family or a business problem it means a greater expense to take care of an emergency.

I believe it is time to use what resources are available within the US. I know that conservationists would have us all using horse and buggies again but that is not practical. I believe that there is technology available that would allow us to coexist with wildlife and their habitats and still make use of the petroleum and natural gas deposits that are tied up by conservation laws. Since the "gas embargo" of the 1970s, I have been uncomfortable that our government has not moved forward to make this great land of ours energy independent.

I do worry about nuclear power since I lived through the Three Island Nuclear incident and Chernobyl. If the nuclear industry has improved, I would consider it. I believe in clean-burning coal, biofuel (as long as it does not raise food prices). I would like to see more refineries, more energy efficiency in all sectors of this nation. That would include business, government, homes, etc. There is so much that could be done; recycling (which in Southeastern Idaho is a joke), conservation, technical advances and so much more. It would be wonderful to truly see the government of this nation stop politicking and start working to address the energy problems of this nation. I am not sure I have all the answers but I do realize that human nature makes change hard. It would be great to see our government setting an example for the rest of the nation.

Again, thank you for reading this and asking our opinion.

LIISA, *Rexburg.*

I do not want anecdotes about how we are suffering, I want us to drill everywhere we have oil. Allow the development of the coal oil industry and tell the environmentalists and the democrats to stop trying to destroy this country. I do not want to live in a socialist or communist society and that is where we are heading.

Thanks for your time.

MIKE, *Naples.*

Thank you for asking for input:

My father is in an assisted living facility located 120 miles from where I live. 240 total miles / 15 miles per gallon = 16 gallons of gas × \$4 = \$64. Therefore I am unable to see my father as often as I like as I also have 2 college children and a single income for my household. We are not doing any traveling as everything right now costs too much money due to transportation costs. This, as I know you know, includes food. I moved to Meridian area from a small community where I had everything paid off, had it in budget to be able to pay off house; now I may have to work till I am 75. Anyhow thanks for listening to my rant, I would have replied sooner but am out working on the farm program.

ROB, *Meridian.*

My wife and I are on a fixed income and Medicare. We are not in bad health but still have a lot of doctor's appointments to keep us healthy. We have one car and buy one tank of gas every two weeks. We use our car mainly to do three things: go to church, buy

groceries once a week, and go to our doctors—all things to keep us spiritually and physically healthy. Now, with exploding gas prices, caused we feel mainly by the government's lack of action in the past and present, we are having to curtail. Let us see, now we can cut back on church to our spiritual detriment, and we can shop for groceries every other week and extend doctor's appointments to our physical detriment. What will we do in three months, six months, and beyond as gas prices continue to explode, driving up the cost of everything, while the government continues to talk with no action?

Okay, what should be done about the oil crisis? Release U.S. oil reserves immediately to both give relief and to sting those in the futures market that are reaping huge profits. With due consideration for the environment, lift the restrictions on drilling off our coasts and drilling in Alaska and other states. Start processing oil shale. As reparations, take half the oil produced in Iraq or at least get a price break on Iraqi oil. Open up the nuclear power industry. Put some sanity behind the development of alternate fuels. Give more than lip service to hybrid and electrical cars. Convince us that government cares about us once again.

JON, Boise.

We are a retired couple living on less than we use to make. Not only is gas costing us more than we can afford but now we are told that propane will not go down in price as it usually does in the summer. We only have propane for heating and, as you know, it gets cold in Eastern Idaho. To fill our tank, it takes more than \$1000 for 500 gallons. Our car takes \$50 each time we fill it with gasoline. We have a car that gets about 30 miles to the gallon. The price of bread milk and groceries are also getting higher.

I know you support the drill here, drill now, spend less and I thank you for that. But unless something is done to help the Americans, someone will have killed their golden goose—the American consumer in the lower and middle class. We are definitely driving less and conserving where we can but I hear how the liberals want to do away with the tax cuts instead of making them permanent. I am a conservative and I have had enough

DARREL.

First of all I want to thank you for making this forum available. I have lots to say but will try to be brief; you and your staff are busy. I am a flight attendant for Delta Air Lines based in NYC. I live in Horseshoe Bend area and fly to JFK to cross the pond to Europe, working the JFK-Europe flight. Last summer I was able to commute to JFK on the same day I reported to work. Delta is cutting back on flights out of Boise and, since I am an employee, I get on last. This summer it will be harder and harder for me to get to work because Delta is using a lot of regional jets with only 50 and 70 seats to save fuel/Delta flights have 144 seats. Delta is cutting SkyWest (carrier operating the regional jets) flights 15% nationwide. Like most people, I do not get paid until I get to work. I am giving up more of my days off to commute to my job in New York. I certainly hope we can resolve this crisis. I am hoping not only for USA sources for energy but hopeful research and development will be more successful in finding better sources than corn, a low cost food sorely needed in less prosperous countries. Thanks to you and your staff for a great job!

CHERI, Horseshoe Bend.

I would just like to state that as a result of the higher gas prices, I had to withdraw from the university I was attending, as I

commuted half an hour 3 times a week for class. I am no longer enrolled in that college because I could not make the drive. I am a young college student, married and my husband and I just bought our first home. I had to quit attending school because we simply could not afford to put the gas in even my fuel-efficient Toyota Corolla.

TIFFANY, Idaho Falls.

You inquired as to the effect oil prices are having on residents of Idaho. The ones on fixed incomes are having their savings and way of life vanishing. I recently received an e-mail suggesting that our food supply should be geared to a barrel of oil and the profits returned to the American people and farmers. It mentioned that gasoline is eight cents a gallon in Saudi Arabia?

FRANK, Caldwell.

High fuel and food costs are hurting both young and old. While gas prices in Idaho are at or above the national average, our hourly wage remains low. Idahoans can no longer afford to travel more than a few miles to work as the daily cost of gasoline to commute from any rural area to the city (e.g. Nampa/Caldwell to Boise) makes the trip prohibitive. Consequently, I would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Immediately end the corn ethanol federal subsidy program that has increased the cost of our food. There is absolutely no merit to this program. It benefits farmers, but the majority of Idaho's citizens and businesses are not farm-related!

2. Prohibit refineries from exporting diesel fuel out of U.S. as they are doing now because they can make more money exporting it! Refineries are shifting production from gasoline to diesel fuel, but not for the benefit of the people of the United States.

RALPH, Eagle.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER ROTHSCILD

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I wish today to honor Jennifer Rothschild, a fellow Missourian, who recently received the Foundation Fighting Blindness' Hope and Spirit Award. This award recognizes the people who inspire all of us because of their ability to see literally beyond their vision loss. The award honors the uniquely human qualities that advance the mission of the foundation, and ultimately, the betterment of society.

Jennifer Rothschild is a remarkable individual who inspires people to rise above their challenges, aspire for the extraordinary, and live life to the fullest just as she has done.

Jennifer lost her sight after being diagnosed with a rare, degenerative eye disease. Retinal degenerative diseases affect more than 10 million people in the United States alone, and millions more worldwide. This loss of vision was more than a turning point for Jennifer who had dreams of becoming a commercial artist and cartoonist. However, she soared above that challenge and found a new path.

Jennifer is now a mother, author, speaker, pianist and role model for all those who face challenges. She carries her story and message of encourage-

ment across the country. In a "Good Morning America" interview for her latest of six books, Jennifer said "If I chose to let blindness be my enemy I would be fighting it my whole life. Maybe this was God's way of giving me a really great gift in a really difficult package." It is that optimism and her amazing talent that inspired me the evening she received her Hope and Spirit Award.

I congratulate Jennifer on this latest achievement and look forward to her great work in the future.●

REMEMBERING MARY ELLEN ROZZELL

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today I honor Mary Ellen Rozzell, former President of the National Association of Professional Surplus Lines Offices, NAPSLO, who passed away unexpectedly on March 3, 2009, while attending a NAPSLO conference in Palm Springs, CA.

Mary Ellen was a respected, beloved leader. The president of Continental/Marmorstein & Malone Insurance Agency in Paramus, NJ, she began working in the insurance business with the Marmorstein Agency some 40 years ago. Mary Ellen served as president of New Jersey Surplus Lines Association, NJSLSA, from 1989–1990, and was named as NJSLSA honoree of the year in 1992 due to her outstanding contribution to the New Jersey Surplus Lines Industry. She also served on the New Jersey Insurance Commissioner's Producer Advisory Council, and with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Her warmth, openness, honesty, and good nature made everyone who met her feel immediately comfortable. These qualities served her very well in life, with family and friends, and in her remarkable career where she rose through the ranks with hard work and honesty. She was always prepared for the trials of life and business and the often difficult decisions required by both. She embraced responsibility, expected accountability and never failed those who depended on her. All who knew her benefited by her example.

Her family has established the Mary Ellen Rozzell Foundation for AVM Research so that friends and colleagues might contribute to arteriovenous malformation research in Mary Ellen's name.

I extend my sympathy to her family and those close to her. She will be missed greatly by everyone she touched.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages