

chronically homeless through emergency shelters interfered with their treatment regimen, resulting in costly hospital and jail stays. Further, local emergency systems became clogged with permanent users, reducing their ability to address the more temporary problems of families and individuals who are homeless because of an economic crisis. Moving away from emergency shelter programs to permanent supportive housing has become the most critical change over the past several years and based on recent studies and programs I have seen in my home state of Missouri, it has clearly worked.

To implement this approach, I worked with Senator MIKULSKI to include a provision, beginning in fiscal year 1999 VA-HUD Appropriations Act and carried every year thereafter, to require that at least 30 percent of the Department of Housing and Urban Development's—HUD—homeless assistance grants be used for permanent housing. Focusing a significant amount of funds towards permanent housing helped reverse the revolving door for the homeless using local emergency systems.

We also learned the importance of gathering data and analyzing the characteristics of our homeless population to design and target funds to programs needed to serve the homeless. The establishment of the Homeless Management Information Systems or HMIS through HUD has now become a critical tool for local continuum of care systems throughout the Nation in addressing their particular homeless populations. Requiring and funding HMIS systems through the VA-HUD appropriations bill was another critical component.

Finally, we learned that despite the involvement of several Federal agencies in serving the homeless, there were gaps in services and coordination was lacking. Again, I worked with my colleagues to reactivate the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness to improve Federal, State, and local coordination of homeless programs. We also required that 25 percent of HUD homeless funds used for supportive services be matched with other funds to expand funding for these needs by encouraging other Federal agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Veterans Affairs to meet their obligations.

The HEARTH Act codifies these important provisions that have been carried in appropriations and builds on our work over the past several years. In addition, the act includes a number of other important provisions that create a new program to assist rural communities help the homeless, increases local flexibility by combining HUD's competitive grant programs, and provides incentives to house rapidly homeless families.

Homelessness is a national tragedy. We are reminded of this tragedy when walking around Washington, DC, St.

Louis, and other towns and cities across the Nation. It is my hope that one day, our Nation's homeless will not be worrying about where they will receive their next meal or where they will be sleeping that night. It is an unacceptable situation. But by working together with advocates, the private sector, and government, we can solve homelessness. The HEARTH Act is a prime example of that partnership and advances our ability to end homelessness.

Updating and improving our homeless programs is even more critical as more Americans face the prospects of homelessness due to the economic downturn. The housing crisis has already displaced many families and individuals creating more strain on social safety net and homeless programs.

Again, I thank Senator JACK REED for his leadership and commitment on homeless issues and I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation so it can be enacted as soon as possible.

JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR. SCHOOL OF LAW

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, on March 27 colleagues of Congressman JIMMY DUNCAN from the House of Representatives gathered in Knoxville to celebrate the naming of Lincoln Memorial University's John J. Duncan, Jr. School of Law.

This is an appropriate honor both for Congressman DUNCAN and for the university.

The proposed Duncan School of Law received Tennessee Board of Law Examiner approval last month. This allows its graduates to be eligible to sit for the bar exam in Tennessee.

LMU has already submitted a letter of intent to pursue accreditation for the proposed law school. It hopes to begin admitting students and begin classes in August of this year. That first class will consist of approximately 75 part-time students. The full-time program will begin in fall 2010 and consist of another 125 students.

Congressman DUNCAN earned his journalism degree at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and his law degree at George Washington University. He has served as Captain in the U.S. Army National Guard and practiced law in Knoxville.

In 1981, when I was Governor of Tennessee, I appointed JIMMY DUNCAN as State trial judge. He served until 1988 and I was always proud of that appointment.

It is especially appropriate to combine the names of President Lincoln and the Duncan family. President Lincoln proposed creating the university as a gesture to the mountain people who fought with the Union in the Civil War. The Duncans, like the Alexanders and many others, were early Scotch-Irish settlers who remained loyal Lincolmites even though the State of Tennessee seceded from the Union. So have been most of the people in the

Second Congressional District that Congressman DUNCAN and his father have served. The district has elected only Republicans to the Congress since Abraham Lincoln was President.

President Lincoln once said that education "is the most important subject which we as a people can be engaged in." Naming Lincoln Memorial University's law school for Congressman JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr., unites two great traditions that will encourage educational excellence in our region.

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.

I get my health care and medications at the V.A. hospital in Boise, Idaho. That requires a four hour drive of over 170 miles, each way. This year I had to cancel my lab appointments and medication renewal exam because it would have cost me over \$250 to make the trip. My only alternative was to drive to the newly opened V.A. clinic in Lewiston, Idaho an 80-mile trip each way. I was then told that I would have to wait an unknown period of time "to get on a waiting list". This trip cost me over 90 plus dollars and gas/diesel is still climbing. If we allow new oil exploration in ANWR and off of our coast, what guarantees are we going to get that this "oil" will be used for the benefit of Americans. As I understand it now most of the oil from Alaska is shipped to Japan, while some is used for U.S. consumption. This is a national resource on national land and appropriate royalties should be dedicated to make gas and diesel affordable for all Americans. Thank you for your time and consideration.

DWIGHT, *White Bird*.

I'm 72 yrs of age, my wife is 70. We have worked hard all our lives, have been responsible, caring citizens. I am a vet, have served in various leadership positions in different organizations, involvement in Boy Scouts and other youth programs, as a responsible citizen over the years we have voted at all elections to exercise our civic responsibility. We are retired, live on a fixed income, with

a modest retirement future. In retirement, one has to adjust your "wants" to what is really needed. When I retired, how could I have anticipated \$4.00+ a gallon for gas? Somehow, I felt my civic input over the years had placed the correct people in government to oversee the changing variables in life and make the proper adjustments needed to hold sure and steady on course!

Instead now we have intense partisanship, people voting for the good of the "party" instead of what is best for the country, self-interest and self aggrandizement with very little being accomplished—all upon the backs of the "people" who have put them in office. Gas is now a political football; drill here and now, against those who say whatever we can find here is not enough "a liberal party line," if all this is our future, I am sure glad I am 72 and have only a few years to see the further denigration of our political system and our way of life. My biggest regret is the mess my generation is leaving to our children and grandchildren.

LLOYD and CAROL.

You are asking Idahoans to write about gas prices? [Does that mean that you] do not know? I think [questions like that indicate that those in Congress may be out of touch with reality.]

[One of] your colleagues [suggested that] Americans to use alternative routes of transportation and that it is a good thing that gas prices force people to take the bus, ride Bikes, or walk to their destination because it helps reduce global warming. [But that suggestion fails to recognize reality]. I am a driver for a living. I deliver products right here in Boise. I have to drive I have no choice. I am also a salesman, and a night supervisor. I do not have the option of riding the bus! I cannot walk my deliveries or ride my bike with my products. I find it absolutely insulting [to have this lack of comprehension of real life displayed by our political leaders].

I have three jobs! Three jobs, and I am still having problems fueling up! I have had to open credit card accounts for the first time in my life! And my debt is still going up.

You would think with three jobs and three paychecks for one person, I would be doing well? I am not married, no kids! I would be starving with fuel prices if I had a family! I am just barely paying my bills on time as they are, to about \$1500 a month, not including gas prices!

Starting in 2005 till 2007 I did very well financially; I was saving up and putting money away in my savings account. I loved myself for putting money away. This month in June I had to take one-fourth of my life savings out of the bank to pay bills, including gas because the price skyrocketed from \$3 to \$4 a gallon in one month!

This is outrageous! I am [extremely angry at the political leaders who have failed to address this problem. And Congress carries most of the blame.] Congress has done this because [environmentalists have protected caribou in ANWR where we have lots of oil. I am dismayed that Congress displays more concern for the] caribou than they do for the economy! My jobs? My gas prices? My bills? My lifestyle? [Congress should be concerned more about the people it represents, not the animals.]

You will not allow drilling off shore? Well, did you know that China is drilling for oil off the coast of Florida? But we cannot? Why? This is outrageous!

Do not listen to those radical environmentalists. They were wrong about the second Ice Age in the 70s. When I was kid in school in the 1980s, my teachers told me by the year 1999 New York would be underwater and Los Angeles would be a bunch of Islands.

It has not happened. Of course, the Earth's temperature changes and jumps over time. The Earth's climate changes all the time; it has been since the Earth cooled and formed. The Earth's temperature does not stay the same all the time. There are so many scientists and people who disagree with [climate change theories].

UNSIGNED.

The area of Terretton, Mud Lake, Monteview, and Hamer has no grocery store in any of the areas. We live approximately 45 miles from Idaho Falls, or Rexburg, whichever way we go. Either of these towns contains our nearest grocery store. Therefore, we have to drive 90 miles to get to a grocery store and home. Some people live as far as 19 miles farther north in Monteview, so for them it is over a 125-mile trip to a grocery store and home. I am sure that none of our Senators or Congressmen can even fathom something like this. We do have an implement dealer and a great hardware store in our area but still, for some of the people it is a 20 mile drive to and from this store from the outskirts of Monteview and Hamer.

We try to make our trips count when we grocery shop, but milk and fresh produce does not last as long as other items. So sometimes it becomes a 125 mile trip for just a few groceries. This makes groceries extra expensive when the trip itself costs \$20 plus just in gas costs. They have to realize, not everyone is in walking distance of all products and services.

Doctors, hospitals, clothing stores, entertainment, etc., are all the same distance. We either stay home or we drive 125 miles for about anything we need. The answer for us is not "just drive less". We have no choice, and this involves a lot of people.

KENT and SHELMIA, *Terretton*.

I want to first of all thank you for all of your efforts to help us achieve energy independence. For the one priority of Congress to act upon for our country's energy policy, we need domestic oil, both drilling and more refining. This would stabilize both our economy, and national security, because it would make it so that we are not beholden to the whims of foreign governments, but you already know that, I just wish that some other members of Congress could understand that also.

As far as current fuel cost having an impact on my situation, let me share a few details with you. I own a small window cleaning business, that currently services from Idaho Falls up to Ashton and the Driggs area. We have been planning to expand our service area to include down to Pocatello and up to Island Park this year. But, because of fuel cost, we have had to put off expanding up to Island Park for now. This delay has not only affected me, but I have one other person working for me, and it has also affected him because he gets paid a percentage of any work done. We have been able to do some expanding into the Pocatello area, but it has not gone as fast as we had planned because of the fuel cost.

SCOT, *Teton*.

I just heard on the news that a couple of states are charging a surcharge to speeding tickets. This extra fee penalizes those who are speeding and using more fuel, endangering the lives of their fellow citizens. The money is used to augment the police departments who must pay more for fuel because of higher prices. These higher prices are causing problems with the budgets of the police departments. It is only fair that those who speed should pay to augment the police departments gasoline bill. Please use your influence to encourage the states to add this

surcharge to their speeding tickets and designate the money to the police departments gasoline bills.

We must do something about the high cost of gasoline. It will ruin our country and put millions out of work, as it has done already. The answer is not more supply the answer is to stop the greed of the American oil companies. Its just that simple. It is not right, it is criminal for the oil companies to make billions in profits while bankrupting the citizens of the USA.

Your web site says the average American will spend more than \$50 per month on gasoline than last year. [But] we are spending more then \$50 more per tankful than we did last year! I bought a Subaru that gets 30 MPH on the highway, and it cost over \$50 to fill the tank! The same amount I spend on my 350 V8 Chevrolet pick-up a year ago and it holds 30 gallons. I do not even drive my truck anymore.

CYNTHIA.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO STAN JONES

● Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I wish to honor Stan Jones, a man who has dedicated his professional life to improving the quality of education for countless students across Indiana.

Stan is Indiana's longtime commissioner of higher education and will unfortunately retire from our State's highest education post this month. Stan has led the Commission for Higher Education since 1995 and during his remarkable tenure was charged with planning and coordinating Indiana's State-supported postsecondary education system and giving students the ability to secure their personal futures.

Stan's commitment to education began in 1974, when, at the age of 24, he was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. As a member of both the House Education and State Budget Committees, he developed an expertise in higher education and higher education finance that would be enormously beneficial in the years ahead.

Between 1990 and 1995, Stan was one of my closest advisers when I had the privilege of serving as Indiana's Governor. He deserves credit as a primary architect of several landmark education-policy initiatives, including the 21st Century Scholars Program. This program promises at-risk middle school students full tuition scholarships to Indiana colleges and universities in return for being drug, alcohol and crime free and maintaining good grades. I am proud to say that this groundbreaking program was the first of its kind in the Nation to successfully graduate students and has increased the number of low-income students completing postsecondary education.

In his current role, Stan has led several initiatives to increase adult participation in higher education, including the development of the Community College of Indiana. He has also worked relentlessly to increase the number of students pursuing higher learning and