

smaller, more efficient government. We are not looking for another government bailout. Whatever happened to: Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country?

Where “Obamanopoly” is concerned, it is time to say: Game over. It is time to pull the reins on this headlong rush toward the Europeanization of America. As former President Gerald Ford said:

A government that is big enough to give you all you want is big enough to take it all away.

I am concerned about what is going on. I admit that President Obama is a very attractive human being. I personally like him. But I think this tax-and-spend set of policies we are seeing is taking our country down to the point of ruin, and we have to stand up and stop it. I have to tell you, if we do not do it, our kids and our grandkids and our great-grandkids—and Elaine and I have all three—are going to be paying a huge price.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, yesterday I was unable to be here for the consideration and final passage of the Homeland Security Appropriations Act because of a death in my family, but I would like to submit my support for this important legislation for the RECORD.

Whether it is a natural disaster or an act of terrorism, we must maintain the ability to respond quickly and efficiently to security challenges. No job is more important than keeping our citizens safe, and no one does that job better than our front line public safety officials. This legislation provides them with the resources they need.

My fellow Connecticut residents and I know first hand how important it is to be prepared. Just last week, officials from FEMA and DHS toured Farmington and Wethersfield after tornadoes toppled trees and utility lines, damaging buildings and closing roads. The worst of the storm hit Wethersfield square-on, severely damaging 70 houses and leaving several to be condemned.

It is rare that a tornado touches down in Connecticut, but it reminds us that disaster can happen anytime, anywhere.

At these moments of crisis, we must be assured that our communities have the first-responder personnel, training, and equipment necessary to keep families safe.

That is why I authored and continue to support the Assistance to Firefighters, FIRE, Grant Program to help equip and train firefighters, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response, SAFER, Grant Program to increase the number of firefighting personnel.

We have made the Federal Government a partner to our Nation's fire-

fighters and because we did, we have delivered more than \$55 million to Connecticut communities in the last decade.

This year's bill includes \$420 million in SAFER grants—double the amount appropriated last year. This funding will help to stem the tide of layoffs so that our communities can be protected by an adequate number of dedicated firefighters.

In addition, I was pleased that the Senate accepted an amendment I offered that provides an additional \$10 million to the FIRE Grant Program. This increase will help more local fire departments equip and train first responders in Connecticut and across the country.

The bill also provides \$300,000 for the Coast Guard Academy in New London to begin work on Eagle Pier, which will be the permanent home of the EAGLE, the historic tall ship seized from Germany during World War II.

For more than 60 years, Eagle Pier was the home of the Coast Guard Training Vessel EAGLE, but in recent years, as the aging pier has fallen into disrepair, the EAGLE has been homeported at a pier at Fort Trumbull.

The EAGLE is a Connecticut icon and one of only two remaining commissioned sailing vessels in American Government service, the other being Boston's USS Constitution.

In addition to showcasing a rich history, the EAGLE serves as a modern day seagoing classroom for Coast Guard Cadets, providing hands-on maritime instruction to supplement the students' rigorous classroom workload.

This bill makes important investments in our domestic security, first responders, and the State of Connecticut, and I am proud to support it.

AMENDMENT NO. 1430

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today, I join with Senator SANDERS, my colleague from Vermont, and Senator CARPER, my colleague from Delaware, in supporting an increase in funding for two essential programs in the fiscal year 2010 Homeland Security appropriations bill to support our brave firefighters: assistance to firefighter grants, AFG, and staffing for adequate fire and emergency response grants, SAFER.

The Assistance to Firefighter Grants, AFG, Program, commonly referred to as fire grants, helps fund the purchase of urgently needed emergency response equipment, apparatus, and training. The AFG Program relies on direct input from the locally affected fire services in the grant process to ensure funding reaches those agencies that are most in need. A fiscal year 2007 review of AFG by the Department of Homeland Security found this program to be 95 percent effective, the second highest rating of any program at the Department.

A recent needs assessment survey conducted by the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company found that 60 percent of respondents report that their local

fire department has delayed equipment replacement purchases due to the economic downturn, and 50 percent reported that if economic conditions do not improve in the next year, it could affect their ability to provide service to their communities. Local fire department and EMS agencies need fire grants to continue to ensure the safety of citizens across the country.

A fire company in McAdoo County, located in east-central Pennsylvania, used its fire grant to purchase an automatic defibrillator. The biggest killer of firefighters in the line of duty is heart attacks, and now the brave men and women at McAdoo Fire Company are better protected as they risk their lives every day to help those in emergency situations.

SAFER grants assist fire departments in the hiring of career firefighters and the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. The single most significant challenge facing volunteer fire service is recruitment and retention. Over the past two decades, the percentage of volunteer firefighters under the age of 40 has shrunk from 65 percent to 50 percent. The SAFER Grant program was created to provide funding directly to fire departments and volunteer firefighter organizations in order to help them increase the number of trained, “front-line” firefighters available in their local communities. SAFER grants enhance the ability of local fire departments' to comply with staffing, response and operational standards.

The Center Township Volunteer Fire Department, located in western Pennsylvania, received a SAFER grant in March of 2009. With that funding, they can recruit more volunteer firefighters and retain those who already give so generously of themselves in efforts to protect and help others. SAFER grants are particularly beneficial to municipalities that are growing by expanding the number of firefighters in conjunction with increased population growth and greater housing development. I am proud of the courage and self-sacrifice of volunteer firefighters in my home State and across the Nation and want to ensure that the Federal Government supports their dedication.

This amendment offers critical funding assistance to emergency first responders and ensures that the safety of our citizens remains a national priority.

COMMENDING NORM COLEMAN

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I wish to speak in honor of the service of my good friend, Senator Norm Coleman. Senator Coleman was among the more thoughtful and intelligent Senators that I have known. His presence in this Chamber will be sorely missed.

Senator Coleman came to the Senate with more insight into the lives and needs of his constituents than most obtain after years of service in Congress. He was elected mayor of St. Paul, MN,

in 1993. Of course, at that time he was a Democrat, but I don't hold it against him. He eventually realized the error of his ways and was reelected as a Republican in 1997. He became the most popular and well known mayor in Minnesota, mostly because he shared something in common with Minnesotans: a love of hockey.

In 1993, the Minnesota North Stars became the Dallas Stars, leaving the State of Minnesota without a franchise in the National Hockey League. Norm shared the view of probably every Minnesotan that this was just not right. Honestly, how can you have an NHL without a team in Minnesota? Due in large part to Mayor Coleman's lobbying efforts the NHL awarded St. Paul an expansion franchise in 1997, the Minnesota Wild.

You would think that bringing hockey back to Minnesota would be enough to get him elected to any office he wanted in the state. But, as many have observed, the people of Minnesota are unpredictable. In the 1998 gubernatorial election, in a race that grabbed the attention of many people throughout the country, Norm finished just 3 percentage points behind Jesse Ventura, whose preGovernor career was, to put it lightly, a colorful one.

Though this result had to be difficult for Norm, I think we all ultimately benefited from the outcome of that race. Norm was elected to the Senate in 2002 and immediately became known for his thoughtful demeanor and his dedication to the people of Minnesota. He was a loyal Republican, but he was also willing to work with those in the opposing party to help the State of Minnesota and the Nation as a whole. He supported President Bush, but, as should be expected of any loyal supporter, he was not afraid to express his disagreement or offer his advice with regard to changes and reforms. Indeed, I think Republicans and Democrats alike have had a good working relationship with Senator Coleman because, as many have noted here today, he was more concerned with getting things done and being true to his convictions than he was about being political and towing the party line.

Mr. President, while I welcome Senator Coleman's successor, I must admit that I was disappointed when I heard of the final decision of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Obviously, I don't like seeing the number of Republicans in the Chamber go down. But, more importantly, I am sad to see the Senate lose such a vibrant and intelligent voice. Indeed, I think his views and statements on the legislation being considered by the Senate this year would add greatly to the debate.

I want to wish Senator Coleman the best of luck in his future endeavors. While I am sure that he will be a valuable asset for any effort with which he becomes involved, I am more certain that he will be missed here in the Senate.

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition today to congratulate and recognize a tremendous asset to the children of Philadelphia, PA, the United States, and really the world—the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The hospital, or CHOP as it is known, has been ranked first in children's cancer, diabetes and endocrine disorders, neonatal care, respiratory disorders and urology care by U.S. News & World Report. I congratulate the hospital's president and chief executive officer, Dr. Steven Altschuler, and his team of over 10,000 employees for this tremendous accomplishment.

CHOP was the Nation's first established children's hospital, growing from its original structure with 12 beds on Philadelphia's Watts Street to a sprawling campus in West Philadelphia with over 40 outpatient locations throughout southeast Pennsylvania and New Jersey, providing care to over 1 million patients last year.

CHOP notably provides the highest level of pediatric care and conducts groundbreaking research through funding from the National Institutes of Health. When I came to the Senate in 1981, funding for the NIH totaled \$3.6 billion. Since becoming LHHS Chairman in 1996, Senator HARKIN and I have successfully worked to more than double NIH funding, which was \$12.7 billion at that time. In the fiscal year 2009 Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee bill, we provided \$30.2 billion for NIH funding, a \$1 billion increase from fiscal year 2008. We also secured an additional \$10 billion in funding through an amendment to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I recently visited CHOP for a townhall meeting and was able to see firsthand some major discoveries that have occurred there as a result of NIH-funded research.

In a conversation with Dr. Philip Johnson, the director of CHOP's Research Institute, I learned about an experimental therapy developed at CHOP using elements of the body's immune system to improve cure rates for children with neuroblastoma, a challenging cancer of the nervous system. This type of cancer is very aggressive, causing 15 percent of all childhood cancer deaths. I am told that patients who received this therapy were 20 percent more likely to live disease-free two years after treatment. Shortly after visiting CHOP, I also learned of a study led by Dr. Johnson that could lead to an HIV vaccine, by inserting a gene into the muscle that can cause it to produce protective antibodies. AIDS is one of the most devastating pandemics, having killed more than 25 million people. Such a vaccine appears years away from realization; however, with continued investment from the NIH, it is possible that this work could save millions of lives.

I have fought and will continue to fight for increased funding for the NIH

because medical research saves and improves lives. The medical research at CHOP, through federally funded NIH support, provides children with a real chance to be cured so that they may continue to grow and prosper.

As we continue the debate around health reform, it is important that we recognize the unique needs of children. As I stated, CHOP served over 1 million patients last year. When it opened in 1855, it treated just 63 patients in its first year. Clearly the demand for highly specialized, pediatric care is growing not only in Pennsylvania but throughout the United States; however, there are shortages in the number of pediatric specialists able to treat children with very particular needs. That is why it is important to support programs, such as the Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education Program, to help children's hospitals train future pediatricians. I have supported ample funding for this program because it helps address a national dilemma and provides children's hospitals with the resources they need to foster innovation and improve quality.

Mr. President, the accomplishments seen at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia are unique and revolutionary. I am proud of CHOP for their efforts to improve children's health care and promote health and wellness.

MOLDOVA'S UPCOMING ELECTION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the Republic of Moldova holds repeated parliamentary elections on July 29, after previous elections on April 5 this year were followed by youth protests to display their lack of trust in the electoral process. These protests turned violent and led to arrests of hundreds of protesters, their severe beatings, and inhumane treatment while in police custody. Even an independent member of Parliament, Valentina Cusnir, was abused and beaten by police, suffering injuries. Three young men have died, and the cause of death is reported to be injuries from the beatings they received. Foreign journalists were expelled and local reporters were arrested and intimidated, their equipment was confiscated. The parliamentary opposition parties, which accused the Communist Party in power of election fraud, have boycotted elections of the new President that, ultimately, triggered repeated elections. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe stated that Moldova's recent elections had "shortcomings that challenged some OSCE commitments, in particular the disregard for due process in adjudicating complaints of alleged irregularities and deficiencies in the compilation of voter lists lodged by opposition political parties."

On July 29, the Government of Moldova has another chance to show her citizens and the international community that it remains committed to