

also have to allow for increased competition within the banking industry, in doing away with this huge concentration of ownership. Not only do the top four—which is JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, and Citigroup—issue two-thirds of the credit cards, they also issue half of the mortgages. I don't think that is a healthy state for this country. We have to start breaking up these guys.

The last point I would make is maybe the most important. In Vermont and all over the country, small and medium-size businesses are in desperate need of capital, of affordable loans so they can better produce the products and services they need and, in fact, create the jobs our economy desperately needs. I am sure the case is similar in Illinois, but in Vermont, I have small businesses coming into my office saying they can't get the credit they need to expand and create jobs.

You have Wall Street operating as a gambling casino, selling and playing with esoteric financial instruments. It is time they started investing in a productive economy and creating jobs.

The American people are hurting. They are suffering through a terrible moment economically. People are wondering whether, for the first time in the modern history of America, our kids will have a lower standard of living than their parents. This is the reverse of what the American dream is about. People are wondering how they will be able to afford to send their kids to college, how they will pay for childcare, how they will pay for the mortgage on their home, when they are either losing their jobs or real wages are going down.

They are looking to Washington. They are becoming increasingly frustrated by the Republican party of no which seems to gain satisfaction every time they can stop legislation which attempts to address real problems, whether it is health care, jobs, extending unemployment benefits. It is no, no, no from the Republicans.

The American people are beginning to catch on that there have been a record number of filibusters in this session, a recordbreaking number of obstructionist tactics. What the American people are saying is: Hey, Congress, Mr. President, we are hurting. We need action or else the middle class is not going to survive.

As difficult as it is, as much as we understand that when we deregulated Wall Street, they spent \$5 billion in 10 years in lobbying and campaign contributions, making sure the Congress did what Wall Street wanted—in 2009, Wall Street spent \$300 million on lobbying. I don't know how you spend \$300 million on lobbying. There are 100 Members in the Senate and 435 in the House. These guys will spend and spend and spend to make sure Congress does nothing to prevent them from going on their merry way of doing whatever they want without any serious kind of regulation.

In these difficult moments, I hope the Senate and the House will summon the courage to do the job we were elected to do and what we are paid to do, and that is to represent working families and the middle class and not only big money and Wall Street.

AMENDMENT NO. 3548

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that amendment No. 3548 be designated as a Pryor amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BEGICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, earlier today the senior Senator from Oklahoma incorrectly claimed that an article entitled, "McCain Breaks Own Pork Rule" that ran in Roll Call on November 6, 2003, proved that I had broken my pledge against requesting earmarks. However, the Senator failed to mention that Roll Call subsequently ran a correction to this article on November 17, 2003, stating that, "the article inaccurately stated that Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) violated his own rules against so-called 'pork barrel' spending." I ask unanimous consent that the entirety of the original story and, more importantly, the correction published in Roll Call be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From Roll Call, Nov. 6, 2003]

CORRECTION APPENDED

(By Emily Pierce)

After years of crusading against "pork-barrel" spending projects in Congressional appropriations bills, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) may be breaking his own rules.

McCain pushed for, and got, \$14.3 million for Arizona's Luke Air Force Base inserted into the just-completed fiscal 2004 military construction appropriations conference report.

The only problem is the project to acquire more land near the base was not requested by President Bush or fully authorized by the Senate Armed Services Committee—two of McCain's criteria for identifying so-called "pork."

"Even though this project is in clear violation of the McCain rule because it was not authorized nor requested, we are happy to provide the funds at his request and the request of other members of the Arizona delegation," said House Appropriations Committee spokesman John Scofield.

Scofield also noted that the provision may violate other tenets of McCain's "pork" rules because the purpose of the funds—to acquire land to prevent the encroachment of residential development near the base's live-fire range—is not included in Defense's long-term strategic plans and may not be achievable within a five-year time frame.

Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), who has bitterly fought McCain's repeated attempts to strike even the smallest of pork projects during Senate floor debate on appropriations, was blithe about the news that McCain had secured an earmark for his own state.

"One man's pork is another man's alternate white meat," said Stevens. "We don't discriminate. . . . If he asked for it, we put it in."

McCain defended his actions, saying he first sought authorization for the measure in

the fiscal 2004 Defense Department authorization bill.

"The fact that the appropriations bill may [be sent to the president] before the authorization bill is not relevant to my point of view, because we did the authorization before we did the appropriations bill," McCain said of the order the bills came to the Senate floor.

McCain, who sits on the Armed Services Committee in charge of devising the Defense Department authorization, said he has little control over the process once it passes the Senate floor.

"It was my job to get it authorized," he said. "So I had no involvement after that."

Part of the problem is that the Defense authorization bill, which gives the Appropriations committees the official authority to dole out money to the Pentagon, has been stalled in conference negotiations for months over various issues, most notably McCain's insistence that an Air Force-Boeing lease deal be scrapped.

McCain has charged that the Boeing deal to lease 100 tanker planes over several years would cost much more than simply buying the planes outright. Meanwhile, the Defense Department has argued that the plan will expend less money in the short-term and that they don't currently have enough money to buy the planes.

While Armed Services negotiators in both chambers say they have made some progress toward resolving their differences on the Boeing lease deal and other issues, it is unclear whether the bill will actually become law this year.

CORRECTION: NOV. 17, 2003

The article inaccurately stated that Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) violated his own rules against so-called "pork barrel" spending. The Senate Parliamentarian's office maintains that the provision was properly authorized in the Senate-passed version of the fiscal 2004 Defense authorization bill and did not need to be signed by the president to be considered "authorized," as the article suggested. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), chairwoman of the Appropriations subcommittee on military construction, told Roll Call that McCain never specifically asked her to put the \$14.3 million project for Arizona's Luke Air Force Base into the fiscal 2004 military construction bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT VINCENT L.C. OWENS

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I honor Sergeant Vincent L.C. Owens, 21, of Fort Smith, who died on March 1 in Afghanistan from injuries sustained in combat. My heart goes out to the family of Sergeant Owens, who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation.

According to those who knew him best, Sergeant Owens was a gifted student who enjoyed attending school in Greenwood, Fort Smith, and Van Buren. He also was an avid athlete who liked to play soccer and football. His

hobby was motorcycles, with a special interest in trick riding.

Sergeant Owens' awards and decorations include two Army Commendation Medals; two Army Achievement Medals; a Valorous Unit Award; a National Defense Service Medal; an Iraq Campaign Medal; and a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He is survived by his wife Kaitlyn Owens; his mother Sheila Real of Spiro, OK; his father Keith Owens of Missouri; a stepson Paxton Lee Owens; one sister; and three brothers.

Along with all Arkansans, I am grateful for Sergeant Owens' service and for the service and sacrifice of all of our military servicemembers and their families. More than 11,000 Arkansans on active duty and more than 10,000 Arkansas reservists have served in Iraq or Afghanistan since September 11, 2001.

It is the responsibility of our Nation to provide the tools necessary to care for our country's returning servicemembers and honor the commitment our Nation made when we sent them into harm's way. Our grateful Nation will not forget them when their military service is complete. It is the least we can do for those whom we owe so much.

SERGEANT JONATHAN J. RICHARDSON

Mr. President, today I also honor Sergeant Jonathan J. Richardson, 24, of Bald Knob, who died from combat wounds incurred in Khowst Province, Afghanistan. My heart goes out to the family of Sergeant Richardson, who made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our Nation.

Sergeant Richardson is survived by his grandparents, Ken and Edna Martin of Mountain Home, AR; his wife Rachel Richardson of Clarksville, TN; his mother Sharon Dunigan of Bridgeport, WV; and his father Jeffery Richardson of Germany.

Along with all Arkansans, I am grateful for Sergeant Richardson's service and for the service and sacrifice of all of our military servicemembers and their families. More than 11,000 Arkansans on active duty and more than 10,000 Arkansas reservists have served in Iraq or Afghanistan since September 11, 2001.

It is the responsibility of our Nation to provide the tools necessary to care for our country's returning servicemembers and honor the commitment our Nation made when we sent them into harm's way. Our grateful Nation will not forget them when their military service is complete. It is the least we can do for those whom we owe so much.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, during two votes this morning, I was unavoidably absent and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: No—The motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to the House message to accompany H.R.

2847, the HIRE Act. No—The motion to concur with the House amendments to H.R. 2847, the HIRE Act.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to the important and essential role that health care professionals play in providing quality health care across our Nation. Our Nation's health care system is complex and people with many different health needs are served by the diverse group of caring, qualified professionals in the allied health fields. Some of these important health practitioners include respiratory therapists, music therapists, athletic trainers, clinical laboratory scientists, radiologic technologists, medical assistants and many others. There are more than 100 distinct occupations in the health professions, in addition to physicians and nurses.

These dedicated health professionals are expert in a multitude of therapeutic, diagnostic, and preventive health interventions and wellness initiatives in diverse settings. These professionals work in disease prevention and control, dietary and nutritional services, mental and physical health promotion, rehabilitation and health systems management. They can be found in community, school and athletic training clinics, long-term and rehabilitation facilities, hospitals, laboratories, hospice, and private homes.

These health professionals represent about 60 percent of the health care workforce and approximately 6 million jobs. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 10 of the 20 fastest growing occupations for 2008–2018 are in the health professions.

With many of these fields facing critical workforce shortages, it is essential that we work to increase awareness of the great career opportunities they offer, especially for racial/ethnic minorities. We also need to support the educational programs that will produce our future caregivers. Recent stimulus funding, for example, will go to train 15,000 people nationwide in job skills for careers in health care, IT, and other high-growth fields. In Park Forest, IL, Governors State University will use its \$4.9 million grant to help unemployed, dislocated, and low-wage incumbent workers pursue careers in health care.

I strongly support the vital role health care professionals play in our health care system, which could not function without their tireless efforts. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this important group of professionals.

TRANSPARENCY AND SUNSHINE WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week we celebrate Sunshine Week, not as a seasonal way to welcome the spring weather but as a time to mark the importance of transparency in our government.

At the U.S. Helsinki Commission we monitor 56 countries, including the United States, to ensure compliance with human rights and other commitments made under the Helsinki Final Act.

A major part of that compliance rests on governments being open and acting transparently—the same focus that is at the heart of the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Sunshine Week.

Practicing open governance is not something countries, States, and cities should do because they have to comply with some international agreement or public records law; rather, being transparent should be an organic part of providing a democratic government and empowering citizens.

When President Obama began his Presidency he called for unprecedented transparency. In his Open Government Directive, he outlined a clear plan for government to become more transparent, participatory, and collaborative.

The logic is clear—only through transparency can people gain the knowledge needed to participate and hold their governments accountable. And only if the people participate can government collaborate with them to glean the best ideas.

This directive was bold and action-oriented, but sadly we have not seen the U.S. bureaucracy react with the same swiftness with which this directive was made. Most agencies, in fact, have not made concrete changes to comply with the directive, according to a government-wide audit released earlier this week by the National Security Archive based at the George Washington University.

It seems for all the White House is doing disclosing its visitors log, broadcasting policy meetings, increasing interactivity through townhall meetings and YouTube interviews—a lot of work remains at the agencies.

Most glaring to me are the delays and in some cases outright denials of Freedom of Information Act requests. I was surprised to learn in the National Security Archive audit that some requests have been pending for 18 years when the law very clearly calls for responses within 20 business days when possible.

Most baffling from the audit may be what files still remain locked in government vaults. For example, today—more than 20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall—the Pentagon still has not responded to a request for records detailing the military's reaction in 1961 to the building of the wall.

When it comes to diplomacy, this President and Secretary of State Clinton deserve great praise for the work they have done around the world to strengthen dialogue and improve U.S. relationships abroad. This successful record, however, is slightly tarnished by the Department of State's efforts on open governance. The Department more than doubled the number of denials it issued to people filing Freedom of