

Although the legislation I am introducing today does not deal with the issue of funding, I do want to note that it simply will not work if we treat education as anything less than an urgent budget priority. This administration has made a solid commitment to education funding, and I was pleased to see that commitment bear fruit in the form of funding through the Recovery Act.

I am also heartened to see that the administration supports comprehensive reform of No Child Left Behind. Reform does not mean repeal. The fundamental aim of the law was right. Accountability is as important now as it was when we passed the law.

The two main reforms my legislation makes are designed to enforce accountability with measures that accurately reflect student performance and to encourage better teacher performance without the imposition of mandates that make it harder to ensure that students are taught by qualified and dedicated educators.

First, my legislation will allow schools to be given credit for performing well on measures other than test scores when calculating student achievement.

Test scores are important measures of what students know. But they are not the only, or even necessarily the best, measures of how much progress a school's student body has made. Drop-out rates, participation in advanced placement courses, individual student improvement over time—these are metrics that can tell us not just where students are, but how far they have come.

Unfortunately, current law only allows these measures to show how schools are failing, not to reflect how schools are succeeding. When more kids are taking advanced courses or fewer are dropping out, a school is doing something right—and it should receive credit for doing so.

Second, my legislation reforms the teacher certification process.

The next student, parent, or, indeed, teacher I meet who does not believe educators should be highly qualified will be the first. But under the current law, "highly qualified" is poorly defined.

For instance, a high school science teacher could be required to hold degrees in biology, physics, and chemistry to be considered highly qualified. In small schools where there may be only one 7th or 8th grade teacher teaching all subjects, these teachers could similarly be required to hold degrees in every subject area.

The result is a shortage of teachers and a surplus of confusion.

My bill will allow states to create a single assessment covering multiple subjects for middle school teachers and allow states to issue a broad certification for science and social studies.

No Child Left Behind was supposed to challenge our schools to do better. Instead, it has become an obstacle to

progress, a struggle that often distracts from the business of education. As we reauthorize the law—and we should—we must reform it so that it encourages students, educators, and school administrators to do better instead of punishing them when they fall behind.

Every American child deserves to be taught by a great teacher in a great school. Until we reach that goal, we must always dedicate our time and resources towards helping students succeed. Until our laws are moving us towards that goal, we must continue to reform them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 3559. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to strengthen mentoring programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the Mentoring America's Children Act of 2010, which will help promote positive youth development for children.

Approximately 17.6 million young people, which is nearly half the population between ages 10 and 18, live in situations that put them at risk of not living up to their potential. Without intervention by caring adults, these young people could make choices that undermine their future as well as the economic and social well-being of our Nation.

Mentoring programs that provide youth with support, advice, friendship, positive reinforcement, and constructive examples have proved to be a powerful tool for enhancing positive development among youth. I, myself, was a mentor in the Big Brother Program in Connecticut, and I saw first-hand the impact these programs have on the children involved. Research has found that mentored youth have fewer school absences, better attitudes towards school, less drug and alcohol abuse, fewer incidents of hitting, better relationships with their parents, and more positive attitudes towards helping others. Mentored youth are also more likely to graduate from high school and go on to higher education. Thus, mentoring invests not only in the individual child, but our Nation's future success. However, approximately 14.6 million young people are in need of mentors; they are part of what we call our nation's "mentoring gap."

The Mentoring America's Children Act of 2010 amends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ESEA, in order to strengthen the mentoring program in several ways. First, it will update the purpose of the program to include character education and school connectedness, which has been found to reduce school absentee rates and improve academic performance. This bill broadens the scope of mentoring to include special populations such as indig-

enous youth, delinquent and neglected populations, and programs targeting middle and high school migrant youth. All of these special populations are at increased risk of not reaching their potential.

The Mentoring America's Children Act of 2010 also provides training and technical assistance to grantees, tracks student outcomes, and improves the sustainability of grant recipients. Finally, it strengthens the research related to school-based mentoring to help inform future mentoring programs in order to best meet the needs of our youth.

Mentoring plays a key role in improving the lives of youth, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. It is critical that we invest in our youth and help provide them with the opportunities to reach their potential. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Mentoring America's Children Act of 2010. Together we can invest in the lives of our youth and improve the future of our nation.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 575—CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2010 NCAA DIVISION I BASEBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 575

Whereas on June 29, 2010, the University of South Carolina Gamecocks won the 2010 NCAA College World Series with a 2-to-1 victory over the University of California, Los Angeles Bruins at Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Nebraska;

Whereas the University of South Carolina baseball team has secured the University's first national championship in men's athletics since the founding of the institution in 1801;

Whereas the University of South Carolina baseball team won six straight games to win the national championship in the ninth appearance of the team at the College World Series;

Whereas the University of South Carolina Gamecocks won the final College World Series hosted at the historic Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium, which has hosted the College World Series since 1950;

Whereas Head Coach Ray Tanner has won his first national title as Head Coach in his fourteenth season at the University of South Carolina;

Whereas outfielder Jackie Bradley, Jr. was named Most Outstanding Player of the 2010 College World Series;

Whereas first baseman Christian Walker, outfielder Jackie Bradley, Jr., outfielder Evan Marzilli, and designated hitter Brady Thomas were named to the 2010 College World Series All-Tournament Team;

Whereas the State of South Carolina was proud to send two home teams, the University of South Carolina and Clemson University, to the 2010 College World Series; and

Whereas the University of South Carolina Gamecocks baseball team is the 2010 National Champion: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) commends that University of South Carolina Gamecocks for winning the 2010 NCAA College World Series;

(2) recognizes the achievement and dedication of all players, coaches, and support staff who made winning the national championship possible;

(3) congratulates the citizens of South Carolina, the University of South Carolina, and Carolina Gamecock fans everywhere; and

(4) requests that the Secretary of the Senate submit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Dr. Harris Pastides, President of the University of South Carolina;

(B) Eric Hyman, Director of Athletics at the University of South Carolina; and

(C) Ray Tanner, Head Coach of the University of South Carolina baseball team.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate tonight that last night the University of South Carolina won the College World Series. I never thought I would live long enough to hear myself say that.

I have been a Gamecocks fan since high school. I went to the University of South Carolina, and there is no group of people who loves sports and their university more than the University of South Carolina, but we have been a long-suffering group.

We have been waiting for next year every year I can remember, and we have knocked on the door and the door has never opened. But this group of young men and Coach Tanner of the University of South Carolina baseball team were down and out, one strike away from elimination, lost the first game, and made it all the way through to beat great teams such as Clemson. Last night's game, if you watched it—it was over about 12:30—was a nail-biter. It was probably the best example of college baseball I have ever seen, amateur athletics. And what a fitting tribute to Rosenblatt Stadium for that to be the last game. It was a well-played game. To the opponents at UCLA, I know your heart was broken, but you acquitted yourself well.

I rise on behalf of the University of South Carolina, my alma mater, and the State of South Carolina to let people in South Carolina and throughout the country know that we finally did it, that this group of young men pitched incredibly well, had timely hits, and never gave up. It was about a lot more than baseball to the people in South Carolina. To those who have been following Gamecock sports, there is the legend of the chicken curse, that our mascot is a gamecock fighting chicken and we have been cursed because of that. I am here to tell you on the Senate floor tonight that the chicken curse is over. Long live the Gamecock Nation.

To my friends at Clemson—I live 5 miles away from the baseball stadium at Clemson University—your day is coming. It won't be long before I will be able to take this floor and celebrate Clemson University's winning of the College World Series.

Upon the passing of ROBERT C. BYRD, this body and this country has lost a great public servant.

To the people of South Carolina, we have something to be proud of.

As we go into the holiday season—the July 4th holiday is right around the corner—let's remember what it is all about: the birth of our Nation. I will be going to Afghanistan and Iraq, having the Fourth of July celebration with our troops. I ask every American to keep them in their prayers because what we are going to do on the Fourth of July, being with our family and friends, is only made possible because of their sacrifice.

Mr. President, I wish you and your family a great holiday.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 576—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR DESIGNATION OF JUNE 30, 2010, AS “NATIONAL ESIGN DAY 2010”

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 576

Whereas the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (ESIGN) (15 U.S.C. 7001 et seq.) was enacted on June 30, 2000, to ensure that a signature, contract, or other record relating to a transaction may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because the signature, contract, or other record is in electronic form;

Whereas in that Act, Congress directed the Secretary of Commerce to take all actions necessary to eliminate or reduce, to the maximum extent possible, the impediments to commerce in electronic signatures, for the purpose of facilitating the development of interstate and foreign commerce; and

Whereas June 30, 2010, marks the 10th anniversary of the enactment of ESIGN and would be an appropriate date to designate as “National ESIGN Day 2010”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of a “National ESIGN Day 2010”;

(2) recognizes the contribution made by Congress in the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act (ESIGN) (15 U.S.C. 7001 et seq.) to the adoption of modern solutions that keep the United States on the leading technological edge; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment of the Senate to facilitating interstate and foreign commerce in an increasingly digital world.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 577—COMMEMORATING THE REMARKABLE LIFE OF PATRIOTISM, CONVICTION, AND COMPASSION LED BY CHAPLAIN HENRY VINTON PLUMMER

Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

##### S. RES. 577

Whereas Henry Vinton Plummer was born into slavery on July 31, 1844, in Prince George's County, Maryland and escaped from slavery to serve honorably in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War;

Whereas Henry Plummer was assigned in 1864 to the Union gunboat U.S.S. Coeur de

Lion, which engaged numerous Confederate ships trying to run Union blockades in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries during the Civil War;

Whereas after being honorably discharged from the Navy in 1865, Henry Plummer studied to become a minister, and felt called to serve again in the United States military;

Whereas in 1866, the 39th Congress passed legislation to establish African-American military units and stipulated that a chaplain be assigned to each regiment;

Whereas in July 1884, Henry Plummer was appointed the first African-American chaplain in the United States Regular Army with a military rank equivalent of Captain;

Whereas Chaplain Plummer served for more than 10 years with the Ninth Cavalry and was stationed at Army forts in Kansas, Wyoming, and Nebraska;

Whereas during his time in uniform, Chaplain Plummer worked to improve education and voter participation and reduce the temptation of gambling, drunkenness, and prostitution among soldiers under his ministry;

Whereas Chaplain Plummer fought racism and other injustices of the time while serving his country with the Ninth Cavalry;

Whereas Chaplain Plummer's records in Fort Riley and Fort Robinson noted that he performed admirably in his work among soldiers and in his efforts on behalf of their spiritual well-being;

Whereas Chaplain Plummer endured racial bias and animosity throughout his time in uniform, including being denied officer housing and being forced to live among enlisted personnel despite holding the Army officer rank equivalent of Captain;

Whereas in 1894, Chaplain Plummer was court-martialed, convicted, and dismissed from the Army under circumstances tainted by racial and personal animus;

Whereas the Army Board for Correction of Military Records concluded that personal grudges and racial bias were driving factors that led to Chaplain Plummer's court-martial;

Whereas the Army Board for Correction of Military Records noted evidence that shows Chaplain Plummer served his country well and was a highly respected and admired officer;

Whereas in 2005, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records changed the status of Chaplain Plummer's military discharge to “honorable”;

Whereas despite the unfair and racially charged atmosphere that led to Chaplain Plummer's conviction and discharge, he continued to ask for reinstatement in the military out of a desire to serve his country;

Whereas Chaplain Plummer was a devoted family man, minister, veteran, and community leader committed to the principles of liberty and opportunity for which the United States stands; and

Whereas Chaplain Plummer rose from the depths of slavery to remarkable heights, and led a life of selfless contributions to his country: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the life and patriotism of Chaplain Henry Vinton Plummer;

(2) expresses its admiration for Chaplain Plummer for his perseverance and resolve in the face of racial oppression in the military history of the United States; and

(3) congratulates Chaplain Plummer's extended family for their work to commemorate his life of devotion to helping others while overcoming tremendous adversity.