

Judith from Taylor wrote me:

We did not do anything to have this horrible circumstance come our way. Both my husband and I appreciate the work you are doing but please don't give up on us. This week we received notice that our mortgage bank has started foreclosure proceedings on our home. The frustrating thing about this is, we have been trying to sell our house since February of 2009. We have had buyers who were interested [but the] bank stopped proceedings saying they wanted more money out of us. We have been waiting since April for the bank's decision on the present purchase agreement. And the only thing we have gotten from this bank is a letter of foreclosure proceedings this week. Not like we didn't have enough to contend with, our youngest son left from Ft. Campbell, KY to the war in Afghanistan on June 9th. This is a very scary and emotional time for our family. We are definitely on overload but we are just one family of millions who are experiencing how life has changed in this world. We have strong faith in the Lord and a strong belief that life will get better. I love this country but grow weary as to the direction the country is heading. Politics should not play games with the American people's lives.

That is what is happening right now. I should mention that one of the leaders in the Republican caucus has indicated that when it comes to extending tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, we should not worry about the debt. We should not worry about paying for those. But when it comes to helping people who are out of work, then the rules ought to be different. When it comes to helping people out of work, then we should change the rules that have been in place calling it emergency spending and require something different. If 15 million people out of work isn't an emergency, I don't know.

Dawn from Hudsonville writes:

I listen daily to the radio and I have heard the lack of progress regarding unemployment. I am blessed to have a loving and generous family so my son and I won't be homeless but there will be significant upheaval. My son will graduate from high school next year (if I'm not forced to move) . . . I have done everything I can think of to continue living here; cut expenses to the bone, free lunches for my son, visits to the food pantry—so many things I never thought I would have to do. I realize the scarcity of jobs, my age (51) is a definite factor, but I honestly never imagined the depth of this recession.

Melvin from Auburn Hills:

I urge you to please encourage your peers to reconsider their vote. Personally, I am 41 years old, had a job since I was 16, and have never collected unemployment until 2009. During the past 16 months, I returned to school and I am about to take another course. I have taken any opportunity possible to work which has included three jobs that were low paying, part time, or short term, and I don't know what I will do if these extensions stop. I have already moved to Michigan to live with family because I couldn't afford rent in Illinois anymore. However, I will be forced to live under an overpass if I can't even contribute to household expenses during this difficult time in my life. It saddens me that a hardworking person like myself is lumped into a category of "losers and mooches" by the attitude of some elected officials, when my lifetime of hard work without ever receiving any unemployment (or any other government assist-

ance) should clearly identify me as a victim of what is the worst economic time in my entire adult life. I want to work and return to a job, and that is why I am doing additional schooling to make myself stand out to potential employers. In the meantime, please help folks like me sustain our modest existence. Please encourage another vote in the Senate to extend unemployment insurance benefits.

I thank Melvin for working hard and for hanging in there. That is what we do in Michigan, we work hard. If we are knocked down, we get back up, and we go back to work. The people whose letters I have shared this evening are people who are working one or two or three part-time jobs trying to hold it together. But mom and dad may have both lost their jobs. They are trying to hold it together for their families. As Melvin said:

I don't like being lumped into a category of "losers and mooches" by the attitude of some elected officials.

People in Michigan are not losers. They are not mooches. They are people who have been caught in the middle of an economic tsunami. They didn't cause it. They weren't the ones who were reckless on Wall Street who caused us to lose jobs and lose credit availability and home mortgages and pensions and 401(k)s. They were not the ones who made the decisions that got us to this point. It is critically important they not continue to pay the price.

I see our distinguished leader on the Senate floor. I thank him for his passion and commitment for people who have lost their jobs and his commitment as soon as possible to bring this up for a vote one more time. But it is very sad that we have had to get to this point where over 1 million people have already been hurt losing their unemployment benefits and others are just holding their breath about what is going to happen. We are committed to continuing to do everything we can until we can get this done—extending unemployment benefits and remaining laser focused on jobs for the American people. We will continue to do that.

But it would be very nice if somehow one more person from the other side of the aisle would step up tonight or tomorrow and we could end what has been a nightmare for millions of Americans wondering what is going to happen to themselves and their families.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed.

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

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4173.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The report will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate to the title and agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of June 29, 2010, book II.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Harry Reid, Christopher J. Dodd, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Thomas R. Carper, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeff Merkley, Kay R. Hagan, John F. Kerry, Tom Harkin, Jack Reed, Frank R. Lautenberg, Mark Begich, Barbara Boxer, Mark R. Warner, Joseph I. Lieberman.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

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

The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, very briefly, because the hour is late and we will have a longer time to engage in a debate about the conference report, I wish to begin this evening, as I will try to repeat during the next 2 days, with my deep appreciation to the majority leader, HARRY REID. While there were a lot of people involved in this process over the last several years who have brought us to this moment for us to consider this very important landmark piece of legislation regarding reform of our financial services, none of this ever happens unless you have a leader who makes it possible to happen.

While that is a simple enough sentence to say, there is so much that

goes into that sentence—the organization, bringing people together, seeing to it that the time is available, making sure the procedures that we will work under allow us to have a full-throated debate, as we were able to on this bill.

This bill went through almost a month of consideration on the Senate floor. We considered almost 60 different amendments offered by both parties, many of which were adopted to change the bill, added value to it. It then proceeded to a conference with the other body in which we spent another 2 weeks, well into the all-night session until June 25 in which another 60 or 70 amendments were considered, and then came back to this Chamber where we are now in the position of adopting the conference report. None of that happens without having leadership in a body that makes it possible for those events to unfold.

While there will be a lot of talk over the coming days about how this happened and what is in the bill, it is important that as we begin the conversation over the next several days, before we vote whether to accept this conference report, that I begin by expressing my gratitude to the majority leader and his staff and others who made it possible for us to arrive at this historic moment as to whether we will change the status quo and set up a regulatory structure that makes it possible for us to address future economic crises, as certain as they will occur, with the ability to deal with them early on, to avoid them becoming larger problems as this one did because we failed to have the regulatory process in place, we failed to have the kind of oversight, we failed to have the kind of protections for consumers that this bill drafts and provides for.

I thank the majority leader for his leadership. While he was not directly involved day to day, there wasn't a single occasion when I could not pick up that phone or walk into his office, cite a problem I had on how to get from point A to point B in which he didn't stop everything he was doing to make sure we could work our way through those difficulties. A lot goes on unseen on how we operate in this Chamber. But, again, when this bill is adopted, as I hope it will be, there are many people who deserve gratitude and expressions of thanks. We ought to begin by thanking the majority leader for making it possible. To him and to his staff and others, I say thank you. I look forward over the next 2 days to the debate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I hope the distinguished Senator from Connecticut and I have an opportunity, which we will, to sit down and talk about what we have been through the last 2 years. We had a difficult situation with the banks, financial institutions going bankrupt, going to close, and we worked our way through that. We had credit card legislation that was

so very difficult. We had the housing legislation that was so extremely difficult. And, of course, we have had this.

This piece of legislation is really a masterpiece. To think that we have been able to get as far as we have—for example, in today's newspaper, it did not go unnoticed by me that Secretary Paulson said some extremely nice things about this piece of legislation. He did not have to do that. He did it because he thought it was the right thing to do. Here is a man who came to Washington inexperienced in government in any way and was given this plate of a really bad situation that developed. So we have the present Secretary of Treasury and the past Secretary of Treasury saying this is an extremely fine piece of legislation, which it is.

I have been around not as long as my friend from Connecticut in the Congress of the United States, but I have been around a long time and this really, I repeat, is a masterpiece. I think it is appropriate to acknowledge the work he has done in this legislation. He was saying nice things about me—I appreciate that—but that is really not very meaningful for someone who was watching him work his way through this legislation.

The vote is not complete yet, and we hope it will all turn out well. But there are a number of people who have been very courageous in allowing us to move forward. We will talk more about them later. They are three or four in number and we will talk about them later. But my friend and I have developed a forever friendship based on the crisis we have gone through together, and I so admire him. There will be another time for talking about his more complete service, but I can say this without any hesitation or reservation, I will so miss this man who has done such a remarkably good job for the State of Connecticut and our country in his long service. He has been an exemplary Senator to me, and I am so fortunate I have gotten to know him as well as I have.

SMALL BUSINESS LENDING FUND ACT

Mr. President, we have been on the small business jobs bill trying to work our way through, and there are a lot of issues we could work our way through, but my friends on the other side of the aisle made a decision today—maybe not tomorrow but today—to not let us move forward. I had a conversation with the Republican leader an hour or so ago and he said he wants to do some legislating on the bill tomorrow. I hope that, in fact, is the case because we are ready to do that.

This small business jobs bill is extremely important. It is a bipartisan bill and I hope we can get it completed. Having said that, I sadly report there will be no votes tonight.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

REGULATORY CAPTURE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, the majority leader indicated today that he would be preparing legislation on energy to deal with a number of different issues, among them the response we should make to the terrible spill, geyser of oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico and all the damage that has ensued in the gulf States as a result.

I come to the floor this evening to say a few words about a problem I believe we need to address in the context of this catastrophe. That problem is the problem of regulatory capture of the captive regulator. Although it comes up in the context of the failure of the Minerals Management Service to do its job to see that the private sector deepwater drilling in the gulf was done properly, it is a problem that is not limited just to the geyser of oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico and the failure of MMS to have taken adequate steps to prevent it. It occurs in other areas as well.

One that leaps to mind is the Securities and Exchange Commission, the so-called securities watchdog which was sound asleep at the switch as the economy careened towards the huge financial meltdown with repercussions we are still seeing today.

The Senator from Michigan, Ms. STABENOW, was just talking about the catastrophes in her State and the pain that the lack of unemployment insurance is creating. That goes back to the original Wall Street meltdown, and that launched a tsunami of misery across the country that we are still dealing with today.

So if you take a look at those two catastrophes—the giant financial meltdown catastrophe, the consequences of which we are still living, that families in Rhode Island, families in Illinois, families in Michigan are still dealing with; and the disaster in the gulf that has created a catastrophe throughout Louisiana, Alabama, Florida—they have a common theme. The common theme is this issue of regulatory capture.

My hometown paper editorialized pretty trenchantly about the gulf problem. They said:

The Deepwater Horizon accident has made it painfully clear that, in its current form, MMS is a pathetic public guardian. Neither it nor BP was prepared for a disaster of this magnitude, and MMS' cozy relationship with industry is a big reason why.

The issue of regulatory capture has been written about for a long time. In 1913, Woodrow Wilson wrote:

If the government is to tell big business men how to run their business, then don't you see that big business men have to get closer to the government even than they are now? Don't you see that they must capture the government, in order not to be restrained too much by it?

“ . . . they must capture the government, in order not to be restrained too much by it.”

The first dean of the Woodrow Wilson School, Marver Bernstein, wrote, 55 years ago, that regulators tend over time to “become more concerned with the general health of the industry” and that they try “to prevent changes which will adversely affect” the industry. He said, it “is a problem of ethics and morality as well as administrative method.” He called it “a blow to democratic government and responsible political institutions.” And ultimately he said it leads to what he called “surrender.” He said, “The commission finally becomes a captive of the regulated groups.”

Even recently, the Wall Street Journal editorial page contained an article by a senior fellow at the Cato Institute, saying:

By all accounts, MMS operated as a rubber stamp for BP. It is a striking example of regulatory capture: Agencies tasked with protecting the public interest come to identify with the regulated industry and protect its interests against that of the public. The result: Government fails to protect the public.

So from Woodrow Wilson, in 1913, through Marver Bernstein, 55 years ago, to the Wall Street Journal editorial page just this month, the identification of the problem at MMS with the doctrine of regulatory capture I think is clear.

So the question is, What are we going to do about that? It has been a recurring problem, and the difficulty is that for the regulatory agency, they are constantly engaged with the regulated industry. The industry is there all the time. The industry is pushing on them all the time. The industry is on the other side of the revolving door of jobs, often. The industry has lawyers and lobbyists working the agency. The industry threatens lawsuits if it gets regulations it does not like, and is accommodating and friendly when it gets regulations it does like. In some cases, such as MMS, the relationship gets completely toxic and you get social events with industry representatives, including illegal drug use and sex. You get staff failing to collect millions of dollars in royalties owed to the American people. You get senior executives steering contracts to an outside company created by those executives. You get district managers telling investigators: Hey, obviously we are all oil industry. You get employees accepting gifts from the companies regulated by MMS, trips to the Peach Bowl on a private airplane, skeet shooting contests, hunting and fishing trips, golf tournaments.

You get an MMS inspector inspecting the oil drilling platforms of a company that he has a job application in with. While they are considering whether to hire him, he is inspecting their oil drilling rigs. I guess it comes as no surprise that in those oil rig inspections he found no violations. But that is an environment in which the regulatory

agency has yielded to this long recognized problem of regulatory capture. So I think it is time we did something about it.

It is a doctrine that has been known for many years, and clearly both at the Securities and Exchange Commission and at MMS it has been realized, and it has been realized in ways that are extraordinarily painful and damaging for America. It has been realized in ways that are truly catastrophic—in one case, for our economy, in another case, for the environment of the gulf area.

What I have proposed is that we authorize the Attorney General of the United States, at the direction of the President or upon the invitation of a Cabinet official who senses a concern about that agency, to make a determination whether that agency is still truly independent of the industry it is supposed to regulate. If the President or the Cabinet official deemed that component no longer credibly independent of the corporation or the industry it is supposed to regulate, then the Attorney General is allowed to step in and clean up.

It is as simple as that. They would be charged to hire and fire and take personnel actions; to ensure the integrity of the personnel within the component; to establish interim regulations and procedures; to ensure the integrity of a process in the component of government. They would be charged to audit the permits and the contracts and ensure that the component of government has signed off on them legitimately, and if it appears that the permits or contracts have been affected by improper corporate influence, to recall them and renegotiate them so that they are done fairly and squarely and not a friendly negotiation in which both sides of the negotiation are, in effect, working for the industry and no one is representing the public interest. They would be charged to establish an integrity plan for that component and then to clear out once his or her job is done.

We have known about regulatory capture now for a century. We have seen it in action throughout that period. We have had two of the most catastrophic examples of regulatory capture happen just now on our watch, and in all this time we have never really come up with a mechanism for addressing it, because the pressure on these regulatory agencies is systemic, because it is constant and persistent, because it is done quietly. The industry doesn't come in and say: We are taking over. News flash to the world: This isn't going to be an independent agency any longer.

No. Quietly, as quietly as they can, they slip their tentacles deeper and deeper and deeper into the agency until they quietly control it—surreptitiously, stealthily, but they own it—and the interest that agency wants to serve is now the corporate interest and not the public interest.

So if we are going to face up to a problem that is that persistent, that

constant, which has been recognized for a century and has recently yielded the two biggest disasters, economic and environmental, this country has recently seen, we have to create a persistent counterpressure. I think the threat of the Attorney General of the United States, our top law enforcement officer, coming in and cleaning house is that kind of persistent counterpressure we need.

So I urge my colleagues, as we discuss the different provisions we are going to bring to bear that are going to be our lessons learned from the gulf catastrophe, that we not overlook what is probably the biggest lesson of all: the lesson we have known for a long time about the problem of regulatory capture and the incidence of regulatory capture in these particular cases bearing such painful, damaging fruit, such bitter harvest for the American people.

I will continue to push. If colleagues have ideas they think would improve it, I would be delighted to discuss those ideas. I think we will have failed in our duty to the public if we do not take away from the financial disaster caused by the deliberately blind eye of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the catastrophe caused by the complete co-opt of MMS—if we don't take away from those the lesson that this can't be tolerated anymore.

Regulatory capture is no longer a theory; it has been proven to be a disastrous practice in at least those two agencies, and we don't know how many more agencies are in a similar position. The disaster may not yet have happened, but they may be just as captive. When you think of the billions and billions of dollars of taxpayer value in Federal land, in timber leases, in mining leases within the continental United States, in contrast with giant corporations; when you think of that huge pile of public wealth from which the giant corporations feed, it is hard to imagine they are not working just as hard to co-opt the regulators who protect that wealth as they work to successfully co-opt the regulators who are supposed to be watching the Wall Street financiers and who are supposed to be watching big oil as it drilled in the gulf.

So let's not overlook this lesson. I am willing to consider a lot of ideas that will help get us there. I put this out because it is the best one I have come up with yet, and I look forward to working with folks. It is too important that we don't go away from this having failed in our duty to protect the American public from the next disaster.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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.

TRIBUTE TO MARCA BRISTO

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my dear friend Marca Bristo and recognize her work as a disability rights activist and the community-based disability agency, Access Living, that she founded 30 years ago in my home State of Illinois.

Access Living opened its doors in 1980 to ensure that people with disabilities had equal rights.

Three decades ago, people with disabilities faced a world of dependency. Even though Congress had enacted important legislation such as the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to prevent discrimination and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 1975 to expand learning opportunities for those with disabilities, people with disabilities still lacked equal rights. Social prejudice fueled discrimination against people with disabilities in housing, employment and basic public accommodations. The concepts of independent living, wheelchair accessible public transportation and quality jobs were not yet part of everyday life.

Access Living was founded to insist on independent living options and higher quality of life for people with disabilities. The agency is governed and staffed by people with disabilities and operates under a fundamental belief that people with disabilities must become a political force if they are to effect social change. Marca Bristo, Access Living's president and CEO, knows that pride and commitment to social change is the most effective way to ensure that civil rights are enforced.

This passion stems from a personal experience. A diving accident at the Pratt Boulevard Beach pier left Marca partially paralyzed in 1977. Through this tragedy, she re-imagined her capabilities to work and thrive from a wheelchair. However, the adjustment was not always easy, because cultural and even physical barriers stood in her way.

Early in Marca's disability, the city of Chicago lacked curb cuts on public streets, which made it hard for her to travel up and down city blocks in her wheelchair. This restriction prevented Marca from accomplishing basic errands such as a trip to the grocery store or a pick-up from the dry cleaners and from using public transportation to commute to work.

Marca and Access Living's vision of equality led to architectural and attitudinal changes in the city of Chicago

and throughout the country. Years of litigation led the Chicago Transit Authority to add wheelchair lifts to their mainline buses. The city has also incorporated scrolling marquees, audible street announcements and thousands of curb cuts to make transportation feasible for people with disabilities.

Beyond these physical changes, Marca has also worked tirelessly to break down cultural barriers and integrate people with disabilities into community life. Access Living's work fosters dignity, pride, and self-esteem in people with disabilities. With that in place, they can choose individualized, satisfying lives.

It turns out, I am not the only person who has been impressed by Marca's leadership and vision for change. She was appointed by President Clinton to chair the National Council on Disability. She was here, fully engaged in the fight, when Congress wrote the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. She has also served as president of the National Council on Independent Living and is currently president of the U.S. International Council on Disabilities—USICD.

But the ADA means only as much as its implementation. We have work to do eliminating discrimination in employment, public services and public accommodations in the United States. As the ADA turns 20 in this month, we recognize the law's and Access Living's work to increase the visibility of people with disabilities in our country.

We as a Nation should also look to be global leaders in this arena. Through her work with USICD, I am confident that Marca will continue to focus the energy, expertise and resources of the U.S. Government and disability community to improve the lives of people with disabilities worldwide.

Fair and equal treatment is a cornerstone of our society and political system. Access Living and Marca Bristo's dedication to ending discrimination against people with disabilities have improved the lives of families in Chicago and nationwide.

TRIBUTE TO KENTUCKY HONOR FLIGHT MEMBERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize 35 Kentucky veterans who recently came to Washington, DC to visit the memorial they helped to inspire. A few weeks ago, this group of distinguished men and women were able to visit our Nation's Capital, some for the first time, because of the Honor Flight Program.

The Bluegrass Honor Flight chapter has brought over 600 veterans from Kentucky to Washington, DC, providing these brave patriots the opportunity to see firsthand the memorial built in their honor. The program provides transportation, lodging and food for these veterans, who otherwise may not have been able to visit the Capital or the monuments they inspired.

These brave individuals answered the call to duty by stepping up when their

Nation needed them most. The sacrifices they made were extraordinary. With unyielding commitment to our great Nation, these men and women bravely served and defended the freedom and rights that we cherish. The courage shown by America's veterans will be long appreciated and never forgotten. And after their years of service, I am proud to be able to honor them today.

I would ask that my colleagues join me in honoring these Kentucky veterans:

Dewey Abrams, Charles Adams, Genevieve Address, Algernon Rowland, Jim Booher, Ralph Brewer, George Capito, Paul Chandler, Donald Cooper, Roland Davis, Miram Dewart, Cecil Dunn, Charles Wilson, Harris Gibboney, George Hauck, Joe Hutchins, Gerald Kincaid, Robert Koegel, Anne Laing, John Fultz, William Malcolm, Edward Martin, Cecil McGee, Frank Milburn, Howell Moore, Kenneth Oster, Obie Owens, Reverend Thomas Pittman, John Krabbenhoft, Dewitt Rowland, Elmer Susemichel, Donald Thom, Roger Tyler, William Warde and Richard Zapp.

RECOGNIZING THE URSULINE SISTERS OF LOUISVILLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention the work of the Ursuline Sisters of Louisville, which will soon receive a special recognition from the Commonwealth of Kentucky for their decades of service.

The Ursuline Sisters began their ministry in Kentucky in 1858 when three Sisters from Germany, led by Mother Salesia Reitmeier, answered a call to teach at St. Martin School in Louisville. Within 2 weeks of their arrival, the Sisters were teaching 50 students and had plans to construct a convent and boarding school on the corner of Chestnut and Shelby streets in Louisville, KY. The building was completed in 1859 and became the home of the Ursuline Academy. The new boarding school for girls offered classes from elementary through high school.

Soon the Ursuline Sisters were asked to operate and staff other schools. They established Sacred Heart Academy in 1877. Within 100 years of their establishment in Kentucky, the Ursuline Sisters had staffed or were staffing 23 parochial schools in the Louisville area, as well as schools in other States. They owned and operated Ursuline College, Ursuline Academy, Sacred Heart Academy, Sacred Heart Model School and the Ursuline Speech Clinic. The original Motherhouse and Convent for the Ursuline Sisters is located near the original school in downtown Louisville that was established by those three German immigrants 152 years ago and is listed in the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places.