

FIRST LIEUTENANT MARK NOZISKA

Mr. President, I also rise today to honor an American hero 1LT Mark Noziska of Papillion, NE.

First Lieutenant Noziska vowed to follow in his grandfather's footsteps by joining the Army after the attacks of September 11, 2001. He graduated from Papillion High School in 2004 and enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard. In 2005 he was named Soldier of the Year. While serving in the Guard, Lieutenant Noziska went on to get a degree in criminal justice from the University of Nebraska—Omaha.

After earning his degree, Lieutenant Noziska joined the active Army and became an officer serving with Company D, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry out of Fort Carson, CO. Lieutenant Noziska was about a month into his tour of duty in Afghanistan when his dream of eventually earning the rank of general was cut short by an improvised explosive device as he was serving as part of a dismounted patrol conducting clearance operations.

The life and service of 1LT Mark Noziska represents an example we can all look up to and seek to emulate. He served his country honorably and made the ultimate sacrifice. Lieutenant Noziska made the most of his short life, and the greatest tragedy is that now it is impossible to know what more this promising young man might have accomplished. I join all Nebraskans, indeed all Americans, in mourning the loss of Lieutenant Noziska and in offering my deepest condolences to this young hero's family and friends.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the attached editorial by Bono for the September 19, 2010, New York Times be printed in the RECORD. The editorial notes the language that I championed with Senator CARDIN on requiring U.S.-listed extractive companies to reveal their payments which was incorporated in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

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

[From the New York Times, Sept. 19, 2010]
M.D.G.'S FOR BEGINNERS . . . AND FINISHERS
(By Bono)

I've noticed that New Yorkers, and I sometimes try to pass for one these days, tend to greet the word "summit" with an irritated roll of the eyes, a grunt, an impatient glance at the wristwatch. In Manhattan, a summit has nothing to do with crampons and ice picks, but refers instead to a large gathering of important persons, head-of-state types and their rock-star retinues in the vicinity of the United Nations building and creates, therefore, a near total immobilization of the East Side. Can world peace possibly be worth this? Never, never . . . Eleanor Roosevelt, look what you've done . . .

Recent global summit meetings, from Copenhagen to Toronto, have frankly been a

bust, so the world, which may not know it yet, is overdue for a good multilateral confab—one that's not just about the gabbing but about the doing. The subject of the summit meeting at the United Nations this week is one whose monumental importance is matched only by its minuscule brand recognition: the Millennium Development Goals, henceforth known as the M.D.G.'s (God save us from such dull shorthand).

The M.D.G.'s are possibly the most visionary deal that most people have never heard of. In the run-up to the 21st century, a grand global bargain was negotiated at a series of summit meetings and then signed in 2000. The United Nations' "Millennium Declaration" pledged to "ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people," especially the most marginalized in developing countries. It wasn't a promise of rich nations to poor ones; it was a pact, a partnership, in which each side would meet obligations to its own citizens and to one another.

Of course, this is the sort of airy-fairy stuff that people at summit meetings tend to say and get away with because no one else can bear to pay attention. The 2000 gathering was different, though, because signatories agreed to specific goals on a specific timeline: cutting hunger and poverty in half, giving all girls and boys a basic education, reducing infant and maternal mortality by two-thirds and three-quarters respectively, and reversing the spread of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. All by 2015. Give it an A for Ambition.

So where are we now, 10 years on, with some "first-world" economies looking as if they could go bang, and some second- and third-level economies looking as if they could be propping us up?

Well, I'd direct you to the plenary sessions and panel discussions for a detailed answer . . . but if you're, eh, busy this week . . . my view, based on the data and what I've seen on the ground, is that in many places it's going better than you'd think.

Much better, in fact. Tens of millions more kids are in school thanks to debt cancellation. Millions of lives have been saved through the battle against preventable disease, thanks especially to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Apart from fallout from the market meltdown, economic growth in Africa has been gathering pace—over 5 percent per year in the decade ending in 2009. Poverty declined by 1 percent a year from 1999 to 2005.

The gains made by countries like Ghana show the progress the Millennium Goals have helped create.

At the same time, the struggles of places like Congo remind us of the distance left to travel. There are serious headwinds: 64 million people have been thrown back into poverty as a result of the financial crises, and 150 million are hungry because of the food crisis. And extending the metaphor, there are storms on the horizon: the poor will be hit first—and worst—by climate change.

So there should be no Champagne toasts at this year's summit meeting. The 10th birthday of our millennium is, or ought to be, a purposeful affair, a redoubling of efforts. After all, there's only five years before 2015, only five years to make all that Second Avenue gridlock worth it. With that in mind I'd like to offer three near-term tests of our commitment to the M.D.G.'s.

1. Find what works and then expand on it. Will mechanisms like the Global Fund get the resources to do the job?

Energetic, efficient and effective, the fund saves a staggering 4,000 lives a day. Even a Wall Streeter would have to admit, that's some return on investment. But few are aware of it, a fact that allows key coun-

tries—from the United States to Britain, France and Germany—to go unnoticed if they ease off the throttle. The unsung successes of the fund should be, well, sung, and after this summit meeting, its work needs to be fully financed. This would help end the absurdity of death by mosquito, and the preventable calamity of 1,000 babies being born every day with H.I.V., passed to them by their mothers who had no access to the effective, inexpensive medicines that exist.

2. Governance as an effect multiplier. In this column last spring, I described some Africans I've met who see corruption as more deadly than the deadliest of diseases, a cancer that eats at the foundation of good governance even as the foundation is being built. I don't just mean "their" corruption; I mean ours, too. For example, multinational oil companies. They want oil, and governments of poor countries rich in just one thing, black gold, want to sell it to them. All well and good. Except the way it too often happens, as democracy campaigners in these countries point out, is not at all good. Some of these companies knowingly participate in a system of backhanders and bribery that ends up cheating the host nation and turning what should be a resource blessing into a kind of curse of black market cabals.

Well, I'm pleased to give you an update on an intervention that some of us thought of and fought for as critical: hidden somewhere in the Dodd-Frank financial reform bill (admit it . . . you haven't read it all either) there is a hugely significant "transparency" amendment, added by Senators Richard Lugar and Benjamin Cardin. Now energy companies traded on American exchanges will have to reveal every payment they make to government officials. If money changes hands, it will happen in the open. This is the kind of daylight that makes the cockroaches scurry.

The British government should institute the same requirement for companies trading in Britain, as should the rest of the European Union and ultimately all the G-20 nations. According to the African entrepreneur Mo Ibrahim, who has emerged as one of the most important voices on that continent, transparency could do more to transform Africa than even debt cancellation has. Measures like this one should be central to any renewed Millennium Development Goal strategy.

And the cost to us is zero, nada. It's a clear thought in a traffic jam.

3. Demand clarity; measure inputs and outputs.

Speaking of transparency, let's have a little more, please, when it comes to the question of who is doing what toward which goal and to what effect. We have to know where we are to know how far we've left to go.

Right now it's near impossible to keep track. Walk (if you dare) into M.D.G. World and you will encounter a dizzying array of vague financing and policy commitments on critical issues, from maternal mortality to agricultural development. You come across a load of bureau-babble that too often is used to hide double counting, or mask double standards. This is the stuff that feeds the cynics.

What we need is an independent unit—made up of people from governments, the private sector and civil society—to track pledges and progress, not just on aid but also on trade, governance, investment. It's essential for the credibility of the United Nations, the M.D.G.'s, and all who work toward them.

And that was the deal, wasn't it? The promise we made at the start of this century was not to perpetuate the old relationships between donors and recipients, but to create new ones, with true partners accountable to each other and above all to the citizens these

systems are supposed to work for. Strikes me as the right sort of arrangement for an age of austerity as well as interdependence. (The age of interrupted affluence should sharpen our focus on future markets for our sake as well as theirs.)

No leader scheduled to speak at the summit meeting is more painfully aware of this context than President Obama, who one year ago pledged to put forth a global plan to reach the development goals. If promoting transparency and investing in what works is at the core of that strategy, he can assure Americans that their dollars are reinforcing their values, and their leadership in the world is undiminished. Action is required to make these words, these dull statistics, sing. The tune may not be pop but it won't leave your head—this practical, achievable idea that the world, now out of kilter, can re-balance itself and offer all, not just some, a chance to exit the unfathomable deprivation that brings about the need for such global bargains.

I understand the critics who groan or snooze through the pious pronouncements we will hear from the podium in the General Assembly. But still in my heart and mind, undiminished and undaunted, is this thought planted by Nelson Mandela in his quest to tackle extreme poverty: "Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great."

We have a lot to prove, but if the M.D.G. agreement had not been made in 2000, much less would have happened than has happened. Already, we've seen transformative results for millions of people whose lives are shaped by the priorities of people they will never know or meet—the very people causing gridlock this week. For this at least, the world should thank New Yorkers for the loan of their city.

PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE: IMPACT ON THERAPY SERVICES

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, for the past 6 months I have come to the floor of the U.S. Senate to offer my doctor's "second opinion" about the health reform law. Day after day, week after week, we continue to see disturbing news reports uncovering the law's consequences—consequences that restrict individual freedoms, erode patient access to medical care, and increase our Nation's debt and deficit.

Specifically, I have listened closely as President Obama and congressional Democrats repeatedly try to convince the American people that the health care law does not cut Medicare. Having practiced medicine for well over two decades, I can tell you that the Nation's Medicare patients and Medicare providers are not fooled. They know the Democrat's health care law cuts over \$500 billion from the Medicare Program. They know the law does not use that money to make sure Medicare is strong and solvent for generations to come. They know the law raids Medicare and uses the money to start a brand new entitlement program for the nonelderly.

America's seniors, and the medical professionals who treat them, understand that if we take over \$500 billion away from Medicare then patients will lose benefits. They understand that if we take over \$500 billion away from Medicare, then the quality of care will

go down. They understand it will be increasingly difficult to see a doctor—especially in rural and frontier States like Wyoming. And they understand the local community hospitals, home health agencies, nursing homes, and skilled nursing facilities will struggle to keep their doors open.

Over the August work period, I traveled all across the State of Wyoming—talking to folks at town meetings, parades, picnics, fairs, and rodeos. Everyone agrees Medicare is going broke—and that the new health care law does nothing to fix the problem. In fact, it only serves to make a bad situation worse.

I want to share with the Senate a guest editorial printed in the *Casper Journal*. Written by Kathy Blair, a board certified orthopedic physical therapist, the article explains how proposed Medicare reimbursement cuts to physical and occupational therapists will limit patient access to medical care.

On Friday, June 25, 2010, the Obama administration released its proposed 2011 Physician Fee Schedule rule and regulation. The draft rule sets Medicare payments for individual physician services. As Kathy's editorial explains, the new health care law requires the Administration to institute a so-called Multiple Procedure Payment Reduction—MPPR. Originally designed to impact payment for multiple surgeries performed simultaneously, the administration now plans to apply the MPPR policy to physical and occupational therapy services. This move is expected to cut Medicare physical and occupational therapy payments next year by 12 percent.

I thank Kathy Blair for bringing this important matter to the Senate's attention and ask unanimous consent to have her editorial printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the *Casper Journal*, Aug. 18-24, 2010]

PROPOSED MEDICARE POLICY MAY REDUCE PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES

(By Dr. Kathy Blair)

On June 25, 2010, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed rule that updates 2011 payment rates for physician services, outpatient physical therapy services and other services. In the rule, CMS proposes to implement a multiple procedure payment reduction (MPPR) policy that would result in significant reductions in payment for outpatient therapy services, regardless of the setting in which the services are delivered. It will apply to physician offices, outpatient private practice settings and outpatient services in hospitals, as well as some home health and skilled nursing services (Part B).

Estimates indicate that these changes will result in a 12- to 13-percent decrease in payment for outpatient physical therapy services in 2011. These cuts, along with the sustainable growth rate (SCR) cuts and therapy cap, would combine to reduce reimbursement by as much as 35 percent in 2011.

Physical therapists may have to elect not to see Medicare beneficiaries or close their

doors as a result of such significant reductions in reimbursement. It will clearly have an impact on the ability of Medicare beneficiaries to gain access to needed therapy services.

Access to necessary therapy services has the potential to decrease costs associated with the management of conditions typically seen by physical therapists under the Medicare program. Therapy services are important to keep Medicare beneficiaries healthy and functioning in their homes or the facilities in which they reside.

Additionally, individuals considering a career in physical therapy may reconsider their choice. The inability to serve the rehabilitation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities due to unsustainable payment cuts would limit access today and has the potential to worsen health care workforce issues in the future.

CMS needs to hear from you to understand the implications the MPPR policy will have on physical therapy practices and the healthcare of all Medicare recipients. Comments must be received by an Aug. 24 deadline and can be submitted electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.&fhl;html>

#submitComment?R=0900006480b182c9.

For contact information about mailing letters to comment, call Wind City Physical Therapy at 235-3910. Please allow adequate time for letter delivery before the comment period ends.

2010 DAVIDSON FELLOW AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I have the distinct pleasure of recognizing before the Senate some of the most talented and brightest young people in the United States. The 2010 Davidson Fellows Award is being given to 20 young students who are under the age of 18 and have already demonstrated superior ability and achievement in the areas science, music, literature, mathematics, and technology. I would like to take this time to recognize each of these extraordinary young individuals and their projects.

In the area of science, we have 12 young students with remarkable projects that have contributed to scientific progress. This includes Kyle Loh, a 16-year-old young man from Piscataway, NJ, who conducted screening of chemical libraries and identified compounds that can help convert human and mouse skin cells into pluripotent stem cells. Pluripotent stem cells have the potential to differentiate into many different cell types. The chemical compounds he identified obviate the need to destroy embryos. Kyle's studies advance regenerative medicine and provide insights into the molecular mechanisms that underlie the conversion of skin cells into pluripotent stem cells.

Jonathan Rajaseelan, a 17-year-old young man from Millersville, PA, synthesized six new chemical carbene complexes of the metal Rhodium. Rhodium complexes act as catalysts in multiple organic synthesis reactions, including the manufacturing of pharmaceuticals and industrial chemicals. The catalytic effects of his complexes make these processes safer, inexpensive, and less