

President Bush and Secretary Spellings, with the Teacher Incentive Fund, and President Obama and Secretary Duncan, who have taken a lead on this, despite the fact that it is not popular with many of the constituents of their party, have stuck their necks out on this, and I applaud them for that.

The Gates Foundation has put money behind it. Bill Gates has told me personally this is one of the two things he wants to do in education with the time and the money he has.

So there is a consensus. Everybody might not say, as I do, it is the "Holy Grail" of K-12, but there is a consensus that finding fair ways to reward outstanding teaching through teacher and principal evaluation related to student achievement is urgently important.

So it is very tempting just to pass a law in Washington to say: Let's order it. Let's just do it. Well, that is not the way things work in the United States of America. We did that with professional development. The law now says, with all that \$2.5 billion: Do it. Have professional development programs.

I do not know what the Senator from Colorado thinks, but my view—and I do not think Secretary Duncan would mind my repeating his comments often—that is the biggest waste of money we have in the Federal education program. It is not well used. We say: Do it, and so they have all these programs. Teachers know it is a waste of time, and everybody knows it is a waste of time. We are not spending that money wisely.

So why are we to think, if we just say, create a teacher evaluation system all across the country in 15,000 school districts, people will just say, OK, they have to do it to get the money, and they will just do it? I think it would be the kiss of death for the whole movement. Although it is tempting to do it that way.

Then, yesterday, on my way up here, in my little hometown of Maryville, TN, I picked up the newspaper and it reminded me of why I so strongly believe it is a good idea to create an environment in which school districts and States can create teacher and principal evaluation systems and it is a bad idea to order it, define it, and regulate it from Washington.

Here is the headline. I mentioned this yesterday in my remarks on the floor: "Evaluation of Teachers Contentious."

Now, here is the State of Tennessee—Mr. President, could I ask unanimous consent for 3 more minutes?

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I certainly have no objection.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator from Kansas, and I will kind of speed up my comments a little bit. But I might take 4 minutes, unless that is a problem.

Mr. MORAN. I certainly have no objection.

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

Mr. ALEXANDER. I thank the Senator from Kansas because I would like to make my point, if I may.

Remember, the State of Tennessee won Race to the Top. It has been working on teacher evaluation for 25 years. It developed the Sanders Model, which was the first real way that we related student achievement to teacher performance. May sound easy. It is pretty hard. Nobody else would do it.

This professor at the University of Tennessee's Agriculture Department, a statistician, said: I think I can do it. He did it, and it is being used all around the country in many places—but not everywhere. Some do not have confidence in it.

So Tennessee wins \$500 million in Race to the Top—to do what? Have a teacher and principal evaluation program. Here they are doing it. Twenty-five years of experience, and it is the front page news: "Evaluation of Teachers Contentious"—all the struggles with that program.

Then we get here into what is involved. It says:

Under the new system—

This is the Tennessee system of evaluation—

tenured teachers will be evaluated at least four times each year. Nontenured teachers will be evaluated at least six times each year. . . .

Teacher effectiveness ratings are calculated using a formula that is 50 percent qualitative and 50 percent quantitative. The quantitative portion combines student growth (35 percent) and student achievement (15 percent).

Now, they are having a tough time down in Maryville, TN, and Nashville, TN, about implementing their own proposal. It says:

State officials are also traveling across the state to meet with stakeholders.

The state Department of Education's Advisory Group will bring revision recommendations to [the] Education Commissioner. . . .

That's Kevin Huffman, one of the best in the country.

Based on the proposed revisions, the recommendations might need to be brought before the State Board of Education.

Do we really want them to come to Washington after they get through with that and say: OK, now we have it figured out. We are having a really hard time doing it. You tell us what to do. You define what we ought to do. And may we please have your permission to do things this way instead of that way? I think not. I think that would be the kiss of death for any movement for teacher-principal evaluation.

So my plea is that we show some restraint, that we recognize that just a little movement here makes a big difference there when we are dealing with 3.2 million teachers, when we are dealing with 100,000 schools, and 15,000 school districts.

Secretary Duncan, whom I greatly admire, says:

A comprehensive evaluation system based on multiple measures, including student

achievement, is essential for education reform to move forward. We cannot retreat from reform.

He is exactly right. But that does not mean we need a national school board. That is what a Governor, a legislator, a school district, local people ought to be doing, working with teachers.

So the NEA and I may have the same position today on whether to have a mandate definition and regulation from Washington on teacher evaluation. We may agree. I cannot speak for them. But I will be watching—as I did 30 years ago, as I did 15 years ago, as I did 20 years ago as Education Secretary—to see what they are doing in Tennessee.

Are they making it easier for Kevin Huffman and the Governor and the legislature to implement this award-winning teacher evaluation program or are they making it harder?

So I hope we will have a good, full debate as we move to the markup in the next few days. I respect the enthusiasm of all those who want to begin a process for teacher and principal evaluation. I would like to believe that no one wants it to move more than I do. I have watched it for 30 years. I have fought everyone who is against it for 30 years, and I strongly believe the right way to do it is to recognize that education is like jobs. Both are national concerns, both are of interest to the Federal Government, but we cannot create them from here. We have to create an environment in which local people, State people, can create better schools and create better jobs, and, in this case, a mandate definition and regulation from Washington, a national school board, would be a terrible error.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I thank the Senator from Kansas for his courtesy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I commend the Senator from Tennessee for his remarks. I believe that while what happens in Washington is important, we really do change the world one person at a time, and it happens at home in classrooms across America each and every day, and there is no more noble profession, other than parenthood, than that of a teacher. They make a tremendous difference in the lives of Americans each and every day, and I commend them for that. I also commend the Senator from Tennessee for his passion for education.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ARTHUR D. SIMONS CENTER

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I want to talk about education that is occurring at Fort Leavenworth, KS. I want to call my colleagues' attention to the important work that is being done in our Nation's heartland to educate the next generation of military leadership at the Command & General Staff College. The CGSC is the intellectual center of the U.S. Army and has trained

many of our Nation's legendary leaders: Generals Marshall, MacArthur, Patton, Eisenhower, Arnold, and Bradley. Today, the college continues to prepare a new generation of leaders who are tasked with protecting our country from threats here at home and abroad, around the world.

The 21st-century national security challenges we face are often complex and require the cooperation of several Federal agencies. It is not uncommon for officials from the Department of State to be working alongside the Department of Homeland Security or Department of Defense on the same project. From the provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan to responding to hurricanes or manmade disasters, the capability of agencies to work together is vital to the success of this mission. By working together and learning from previous mistakes, our government will become better prepared to keep our country safe and secure.

To improve coordination within agencies tasked with our national security, the Command and General Staff College Foundation, under the leadership of retired COL Bob Ulin, established the Arthur D. Simons Center for the Study of Interagency Cooperation at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. Thanks to a very generous financial gift from Ross Perot, the center was created last April and named after Mr. Perot's good friend, retired COL Arthur "Bull" Simons, who led a rescue mission of U.S. Special Forces to free American prisoners in Vietnam in 1970. The Simons Center focuses on generating solutions to challenges often encountered when government agencies must work together. By drawing on real-world experience, the Simons Center works to facilitate broader and more effective cooperation within our government at the operational and tactical levels through research, analysis, publications, and outreach.

The center is also actively engaged in working with Members of Congress. Most recently, the center has been working with the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, of which I am a member, and on legislation to help facilitate better communication and coordination among personnel in the national security and homeland security fields.

The Interagency Personnel Rotation Act is scheduled to be considered in committee tomorrow and would give security professionals the opportunity to work alongside one another in a different agency for a period of time. The bill reminds me of the old saying "Before you judge a man, walk a mile in his shoes." By giving staff the opportunity to work within another agency—to walk within his shoes—I imagine perspective will change and cooperation will increase. If the legislation is approved by Congress, the Simons Center will play a role in implementing these policies.

In addition to offering policy recommendations, the center also part-

ners with several organizations to host conferences focused on how to improve interagency coordination. For example, the center recently cohosted a symposium on interagency transitions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond with the Combined Arms Center and the U.S. Institute of Peace. Conferences such as these help provide senior government officials a helpful forum to further analyze ongoing challenges and develop practical solutions.

I wish to thank the center's executive director, Ted Strickler, who joined the center after a 30-year career in the State Department, for his hard work over the past year to get the center up and running. I also wish to recognize retired COL Bob Ulin of the Command and General Staff College Foundation for his ongoing dedication to this important initiative. Under the colonel's leadership, the foundation has successfully supported our country's oldest and largest military staff college in its mission to educate the next generation of our military leaders.

Finally, I urge my colleagues to take a closer look at the valuable work taking place at the Simons Center. We all recognize the importance of improving our government's ability to harness the strength of its various agencies. By promoting interagency cooperation, the Simons Center is helping to strengthen our national security capabilities so that our country and its citizens are better prepared for their future.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Wednesday, October 19, when the Senate resumes consideration of H.R. 2112, the vehicle for the Agriculture, CJS, and Transportation-HUD appropriations bills, the time until noon be equally divided between Senators MCCAIN and BOXER or their designees for debate on the McCain amendment No. 739; that at noon, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the McCain amendment No. 739; and that there be no amendments or points of order in order to that amendment prior to the vote other than budget points of order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUDGE DAVID A. TAPP

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Honor-

able Judge David A. Tapp, an exemplary Kentuckian and recent recipient of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, NADCP, prestigious "All Rise Leadership Award." Judge Tapp currently serves as a circuit court judge for Lincoln, Pulaski, and Rockcastle Counties in my home State of Kentucky.

Judge Tapp was honored at the NADCP Annual Training Conference that was held in July in Washington, DC. The annual conference is considered the world's largest on substance abuse and the criminal justice system. Chris Deutsch, director of communications for the NADCP, praised Judge Tapp for being an outstanding ambassador for drug courts both in Kentucky and around the world saying, "It is an honor for the NADCP to present Judge Tapp with this award." Judge Tapp was recognized alongside actors Martin Sheen, Matthew Perry, and Harry Lennix during the closing ceremony of the event.

Let me add here that I had the pleasure of seeing Judge Tapp here in Washington this past July when he attended the NADCP conference. I was honored to be presented with the NADCP's "All Rise Leadership Award," and one of those presenters was Judge Tapp himself. I am a longtime supporter of Kentucky's drug courts and was pleased to meet with Judge Tapp and his fellow Kentucky drug court judges on this important issue. He is truly an impressive fellow.

In addition to his regular duties as a circuit judge, Judge Tapp volunteers his time in presiding over the drug court for the three counties and has been doing so since 2005. The drug court is similar to some 2,700 others nationwide and serves seriously drug-addicted individuals through intense treatment and supervision, says Judge Tapp.

"I do drug court for the small moments," said Tapp. "At some point during the process you look at them and you see a new confidence. You see a gleam in their eye that wasn't there before, and you know that they get it. I take great pride in these efforts and applaud the hard work and dedication of all drug court staff members. These people volunteer their time and effort to do good deeds for thousands of people within the Commonwealth annually and they get almost no recognition for these efforts. They deserve a great amount of credit."

I would ask all of my Senate colleagues to join me in congratulating the Honorable Judge David A. Tapp in receiving such a distinguished award for his efforts in rehabilitating drug offenders. Judge Tapp's work in drug court is commendable and he has served as a model for others in Kentucky and around the country. The Pulaski County Commonwealth Journal published an article in September highlighting Judge Tapp's accomplishments. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.