

The population of our dentists in general is getting older, and we are losing more of them to retirement than we are seeing graduates of dental school. Even the dentists who are graduating are often not migrating to the areas where we need them the most. Many dentists are involved in making our teeth white and shiny and our smiles very beautiful, but meanwhile in those communities there are people who are seeing the teeth in their mouth rot away, there are kids who have dental problems, and they are not getting the treatment they need.

I hope that tomorrow at the hearing we are going to bring forth some great panelists. We will be talking about the issue. I intend, as soon as we can, to introduce comprehensive legislation to make sure every person in this country has access to affordable and decent-quality dental care.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, we are debating the Transportation bill, so let me say a few words about transportation.

I think everybody in this country—or at least anybody who gets into an automobile and drives around—understands that we have a major infrastructural crisis in this country and that it is becoming more dire each passing year.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has reported that we should be investing \$2.2 trillion over the next 5 years simply to get our roads, bridges, transit, and aviation to a passable condition. This is more than eight times the annual rate of spending proposed in the bill under consideration.

The first point I think we should acknowledge is that the legislation before us, which I support and which is significantly a step forward, is a very modest proposal going nowhere near as far as we should be going.

Clearly, I see when I go home to Vermont, and I am sure you see when you go home to Pennsylvania, the very apparent infrastructural needs we as a nation face. In my State of Vermont, just under one-third of Vermont's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. About one-third of Vermont's bridges are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Thirty-six percent of our Federal aid roads are in need of major repairs. In fact, a recent national report ranked Vermont's rural roads as the worst in the Nation, and that was before the very terrible storm we experienced, Tropical Storm Irene, which caused hundreds of millions of additional dollars of damage to our roads.

I think the point here is not a complicated point. I was a mayor for 8

years, and I had to deal with the roads and the water system in the city of Burlington, and I think I speak for every mayor in the world when I tell you that infrastructure does not get better all by itself. I think we can all agree that if you do nothing, if you do not invest in repairs, it is just not going to get better. In fact, it will get worse.

It is really dumb that we as a nation end up spending a lot more money than we should in repairing our roads and bridges and water systems because we don't adequately fund maintenance. If you keep up good repair, it will end up costing you less money. If you ignore them and they deteriorate and you need to massively rebuild them, it ends up being a much more expensive proposition.

So as a nation what we should be doing is properly maintaining our infrastructure, investing a certain sum every single year. And I should tell you that compared to the rest of the world, we do not do a particularly good job of that. Right now, the United States invests just 2.4 percent of our GDP on infrastructure. Europe invests twice that amount, and China invests almost four times our rate. Roughly 9 percent of their GDP goes to infrastructure. So in terms of our own needs, we are falling behind. Internationally, other countries are doing a lot better than we are.

Equally important is that we are in the midst of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. If you look at those people who have given up looking for work, those people who are working part time or want to work full time, real unemployment in this country is not just the official 8.2 percent, it is closer to 15 percent. And what economists tell us is that if we are serious about creating jobs, investing in infrastructure is probably the best way to do that. It is the easiest way to create meaningful, decent-paying jobs. For every \$1 billion of Federal funds spent, we can create or maintain nearly 35,000 jobs. Given the economic crisis we face, that is exactly what we should be doing.

In addition to preserving more than 1.8 million jobs, the legislation we are dealing with today, which is being presented by Senators BOXER and INHOFE, will create up to 1 million new jobs by expanding the TIFIA Program—a measure championed by Chairperson BOXER. This is an extremely important issue. It is important for our productivity because when you have a crumbling infrastructure, productivity suffers. It is important in terms of international competition. It is important in terms of job creation. It is important in order to provide a basic need for millions of Americans.

People do not want to drive on roads which are falling apart, that have huge potholes. People want to make sure when they go over a bridge, that bridge will not collapse. People want to make sure we have a strong rail system, not a rail system which, in fact, is far be-

hind those of Europe, Japan, and China.

This bill, while modest in terms of our needs, is a step forward. It is a bipartisan bill. I hope we can get to it and pass it as quickly as possible because the infrastructure needs of this country are great, and they must be addressed.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

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

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

SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the achievements of the U.S. Senate Youth Program, USSYP, an organization that has molded some of our Nation's brightest students to become the next generation of public servants.

This year marks 50 years of a commitment to educate and nurture talented young leaders interested in serving their communities. The USSYP hails from a strong family that valued bipartisanship and democratic law-making. William Randolph Hearst's sons, George R. Hearst and Randolph A. Hearst, envisioned this program and brought it to life with the collaboration of then-Senators Tom Kuchel, R-CA, Mike Mansfield, D-MT, Everett Dirksen, R-Ill., and Hubert Humphrey, D-MN.

The USSYP was created by S. Res. 324 in 1962 "to increase young Americans' understanding of the interrelationships of the three branches of government, the caliber and responsibilities of federally elected and appointed officials, and the vital importance of democratic decision making not only for America but for people around the world."

I would also like to commend the State departments of education across the country that select the outstanding students each year and the Department of Defense, which provides competitively selected military officers from every service branch to serve as guides and mentors to the students during the program. The Hearst Foundations have continued to administer and fund the program since inception, including college scholarships for each student given with the encouragement

to continue their studies in history and government.

This year, 104 impressive student delegates were selected because of their outstanding leadership abilities and volunteer work by the chief educational officer from each State to travel to Washington and serve as young "senators" from their respective States for 1 week. They will keep a busy schedule attending meetings and briefings with Senators and congressional staff, the President, a Justice of the Supreme Court, leaders of Cabinet agencies, an ambassador to the United States, and top members of the national media.

The USSYP has a proud roster of more than 5,000 alumni of the program who continue to use the skills they learned from their experience as delegates and many of whom have become public servants.

I am proud to serve as an honorary cochair of the program, and I send my best wishes to each of the students selected to represent their States during Washington Week. I especially send my sincere congratulations to the two Nevada delegates, Daniel Waqar of Las Vegas and Benjamin Link of Eureka.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUDGE ROGER J. MINER

• Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a truly brilliant and dedicated jurist who served New York and the Nation as a public servant his entire life. On Saturday, February 18, 2012, I was heartbroken to learn that my mentor and friend, Judge Roger J. Miner, a U.S. Court of Appeals judge for the Second Circuit, passed away of natural causes in his home in Hudson, NY.

I was extremely fortunate to have had the privilege to work with Judge Miner as a law clerk, when he served in the Northern District of New York. I cherished his confidence and support in all my endeavors and I feel blessed to have been able to call him a personal friend and mentor. He not only taught me clear legal analysis, but also inspired me with his integrity, fairness, and great love of public service. I will always remember his generosity, kindness and great intellect that taught me so much.

Born in Hudson, Judge Miner received his bachelor's degree from State University of New York at Albany and his law degree from New York Law School with honors in 1956, where he served as managing editor of the *Law Review*.

Judge Miner was admitted to practice in New York and in the U.S. Court of Military Appeals in 1956. Serving on active military duty from 1956 to 1959, Judge Miner was awarded the Commendation Ribbon with Medal Pendant for his work on the revision of the *Manual for Courts-Martial*. He was ad-

mitted to the Bar of the Republic of Korea in 1958. Judge Miner later was honorably discharged in October 1964 with the rank of captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Judge Miner wrote *Ohio State Law Journal* Volume 67 in 2006 where he describes his defense of a person he believes to be the last civilian tried by court martial. The trial was conducted in Korea in 1958 during Judge Miner's service as an officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the U.S. Army. Although a challenge to the jurisdiction of the court martial was rejected and the civilian defendant's conviction was set aside for another reason at trial—the Supreme Court ultimately decided that courts-martial have no jurisdiction over civilians. This development also led to the passage of the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act to allow for prosecution in U.S. District Courts of civilians employed by or accompanying the Armed Forces overseas.

After leaving active duty, he returned to Hudson, NY, to practice law with his father, and served as the city's corporation counsel from 1961 to 1964.

Judge Miner served as an assistant district attorney of Columbia County, and soon after became district attorney of Columbia County until 1975. The following year, he was elected as justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Third Judicial District, where he served for five years.

Judge Miner was nominated in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York. In 1985, President Reagan promoted Judge Miner to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, where he served for nearly three decades.

Judge Miner was one of three finalists considered to fill a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court in the late 1980s, but ultimately was not nominated because he openly supported a woman's right to choose. As his wife Jacqueline has recalled she urged him to lie and say he was opposed to choice. He said, "My reputation is too big a price to pay for a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court." This is an example of one of the many courageous choices he made throughout his life, where he put his integrity and what was right ahead of personal ambition or political expediency.

Judge Miner was an adjunct professor for his alma mater, New York Law School, and for Albany Law School. He also served as a member of the board of trustees of the Practicing Law Institute. He held honorary degrees from New York Law School, Albany Law School, and Syracuse University.

Judge Miner is survived by his wonderful wife of 36 years Jacqueline, four sons, Larry, Ronald, Ralph, and Mark; his brother Lance, six grandchildren, a nephew and a niece, and his extended family. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Mr. President, I ask all members of this esteemed body to join me as we

honor the life and legacy of Judge Roger J. Miner. Our country has lost a great leader, and a fine jurist who will be deeply missed in New York and across the Nation.●

RECOGNIZING ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CENTENNIAL

• Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, it is my distinct honor and privilege to recognize the work of Arkansas Children's Hospital, ACH, on the occasion of its centennial celebration. Founded in 1912, ACH has been at the forefront of pediatric medicine in Arkansas and across the Nation for the last century. Friends and supporters of ACH will gather on March 5, 2012, to celebrate 100 years of ACH history and care to the children of Arkansas, and I join with them in congratulating Arkansas Children's Hospital on its 100th birthday.

Designed originally to serve as an orphanage for the underprivileged children in Arkansas, the Arkansas Children's Home Society was established on March 2, 1912, with a mission to provide and care for the neediest children in Arkansas. Dr. Orlando P. Christian became the first superintendent of the society and soon laid out a vision to build a children's hospital. Kicking off a fundraising campaign for the new hospital in 1919, Dr. Christian stirred attendees with a moving speech and concluded by asking, "The question is no longer what shall we do, but how and when shall we begin our task?"

It took only 7 years for this goal to become a reality when the hospital opened on March 9, 1926, with only two beds but a fully equipped operating room. In the years following, Arkansas Children's Home and Hospital, as it was then known, would face various challenges and triumphs as it continued to add new facilities and services in support of its mission. When Dr. Christian retired in 1933, Mrs. Ruth Olive Beall became the new superintendent. Her 27-year tenure brought the facility through the difficulties of the Great Depression and World War II and saw the institution formally become Arkansas Children's Hospital.

The Burn Center opened in 1953 and continues to be the only center of its kind in the State, treating over 2,000 adults and children every year. The Heart Center at ACH is one of the premier centers in the country. In 2011, doctors at the Heart Center performed an astonishing total of 31 heart transplants, bringing new life and hope to dozens of children and families. In an effort to expand medical care across the State, ACH added a helicopter to its transport services in 1985. Now, more than 1,200 children each year are brought safely to ACH through the Angel One transport helicopters. This addition had a significant impact on the State's infant mortality rate and continues to provide children across the State expanded access to the excellent medical care at Arkansas Children's Hospital. As they like to say,