

women from participating. Despite numerous threats to her life and her family, including calls for suicide attacks against her by local extremists, she continues to work to improve the lives of women throughout Pakistan.

Ms. Shad is one of 10 remarkable women the State Department honored this year. Every one of these 10 stories is inspirational, but they also represent literally millions of women around the globe who are out there fighting and suffering to be heard. There are countless women who don't receive the recognition they deserve and who continue to be silenced by persecution and harassment. Today we recognize, honor, and celebrate all of those nameless, faceless women around the world who are continuing the fight.

Far too many women remain excluded from full participation in society, to the detriment of their communities, their countries, and the world. Although strides have been made in recent decades, women across the globe continue to face significant obstacles in all aspects of their lives, including the denial of basic human rights, discrimination, and gender-based violence. According to the World Bank, women make up 70 percent of all individuals living in poverty. Women account for 64 percent of the adults worldwide who lack basic literacy skills. Women continue to remain vastly underrepresented in national and local governments around the world.

So there is no doubt that we have a lot of work to do, but all of society benefits when women are more fully integrated into their communities and their villages around the world. In the words of President Obama, "Our common prosperity will be advanced by allowing all humanity—men and women—to reach their full potential."

As we reflect on the past, present, and future achievements of women, I believe it is important to recognize the vital and untapped resource that women represent for our world. The ability of women to realize their full potential is critical to the ability of a nation to achieve strong and lasting economic growth, political and social stability, and enhanced security for all its people.

Thank you very much, Mr. President. I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I would also like to ask the permission of the Chair to display this box during my remarks.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ISAKSON. Thank you, Mr. President.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I am proud to stand here today on International Women's Day, the 8th day of March, 2012, to pay tribute to women around the world but also to acknowledge that women around the world, on Monday, March 12, will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Girl Scouts of America, founded in Savannah, GA, a beautiful town, by a wonderful Georgia lady, Juliette Gordon Low. Girl Scouts around the world will be celebrating the founding of that great organization, which has had a positive effect on women around the world.

Each of us right now is well aware of the Girl Scouts because of boxes like this box the Acting President pro tempore gave me permission to display, which is what is left of a box of Thin Mints. The Girl Scouts sell boxes of cookies this time of year to raise money for their operations around the world. I eat far too many of them. They are good. They are good for me, they are good for America, and they are good for the Girl Scouts and the fundraising they do.

The Girl Scouts is an organization of leadership, developing women for the future. While only 17 percent of this body are women, almost all of them were Girl Scouts. Almost all women of business were Girl Scouts. And almost all women who were in Girl Scouts pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of America and the contribution they have made to their lives. There are 3.2 million active Girl Scouts in America today, and there are 50 million Girl Scout alumni in America. That has a tremendous impact on all that is right about America.

The Girl Scouts have been pacesetters. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a native of my city of Atlanta and a native of our State that Juliette Low was from, cited the Girl Scouts of America as "a force for desegregation" during the troubled times of the 1950s and 1960s. The Girl Scouts were at the forefront of integration and leadership for youth.

The Girl Scouts of America also pledge themselves and they make a promise, which I would like to read.

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout law.

Which reads:

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

That is not a motto just for the Girl Scouts but one that would serve us all well in this body.

So on this International Women's Day on March 8, I would like to acknowledge that on Monday, when we are not here, around the world women will celebrate the founding of the Girl Scouts of America, and the 3.2 million Girl Scouts in America today will be building for the future the Acting President pro tempore and I work for today in this body, the U.S. Senate.

I yield back the remainder of my time and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, later today I will be down on the floor to offer a budget point of order on the highway bill. I have been down here several times over the course of the last several days.

I think most in this body—a large majority of people in this body—have been a part of encouraging us to, in a very bipartisan way, solve the budget problems we have in this country. There were 64 of us—32 on each side of the aisle—who signed a letter to the President encouraging him to really adopt some of the principles that were laid out in Bowles-Simpson. After that, there was a very large number of Senators on both sides of the aisle who signed a letter to the supercommittee asking them to go big and really deal in a serious way with the budget issues, the deficit issues with which our country is dealing.

I have been down here multiple times talking about the various oddities in this bill. What is getting ready to happen in this bill is that we are actually, over the next 2 years, going to create a \$10 billion to \$11 billion deficit. Because of the various gimmickry we use, we are figuring out ways to get around that. One of the budget gimmicks we are using in the bill is that we are going to spend the money over a 2-year period but pay for it over a 10-year period—2 years worth of spending, 10 years worth of revenues.

I think the Acting President pro tempore was here during the period of time we had the health care debate in our Nation, and many of the folks on my side of the aisle, rightfully so, were concerned about the health care bill because there were 6 years' worth of costs and 10 years' worth of revenues, and a lot of people thought that was a budget gimmick. Candidly, many of my friends on the other side of the aisle, while they may have supported the

bill, were also concerned about those same types of gimmicks being used in the health care bill, and it caused them concern.

My point is, in a bipartisan way, we have tried to deal with our budget deficits in this country. I notice the Senator from Illinois just stepped on the floor. He has been a major player in those initiatives. What we did last year was we passed something called the Budget Control Act. We did so in order to raise the debt ceiling and to accomplish discipline in this body so that over the next 2 years we established overall caps on spending.

This bill, believe it or not—here we are in March, with a very popular bill, which speaks to the fact, to me, that it is the kind of bill that many of us would think, if you really want to pass a highway bill, you would prioritize it higher than other spending, that it is the kind of situation that, in a bipartisan way, we would come together and say: OK, we really want to see infrastructure spending in this country, so let's make this of higher priority than other spending.

That is not what we are doing. Believe it or not, this Senate—which has talked big about deficit spending, written lots of letters, had lots of meetings—what this Senate is getting ready to do with this bill is violate the Budget Control Act that we passed last year trying to show the American people we had at least a modicum of discipline.

Let me say it one more time. This highway bill, in March of this year—I think we passed the Budget Control Act last August, in the early part of August, to demonstrate to the American people that this Senate, this Congress had the discipline to put caps on spending over the next 2 years to begin the process of addressing deficit reduction. What we are going to do, if we pass this highway bill, as laid out, is violate that budget cap right now.

I want everybody in this body to know that I plan to offer a budget point of order. I hope at least all of those 64 Senators—32 on each side—would join me in opposing breaking the Budget Control Act we just put in place in an effort to demonstrate to the American people and, candidly, to the world that buys our Treasury bonds that we have the ability, the discipline to deal with the fiscal issues we have in our Nation.

Mr. President, I know we have the distinguished Senator from Texas in the Chamber, who was to speak exactly right now. I yield the floor and thank the Acting President pro tempore for the time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, what is the regular order?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is currently in morning business, with 20 minutes 16 seconds remaining on the Republican side.

Mr. CORNYN. I thank the Acting President pro tempore.

GASOLINE PRICES

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I come to the floor to express my concerns on behalf of the 26 million constituents I have in Texas about the rising gas prices and the administration's failure to take reasonable and rational and practical steps to help ease the pain Americans are feeling at the gas pump.

Just think about it. We know unemployment is unacceptably high and intractable, notwithstanding our private sector economy's best efforts to grow and to create jobs. So we know people are out of work. We know many of them are unable to pay their mortgages and are literally losing their homes to foreclosure. Those who are fortunate enough to have jobs are experiencing higher prices when it comes to food, when it comes to health care, notwithstanding the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, of which the President said the average family would save \$2,500 in health care premiums. Last year alone, there was almost a double-digit increase in the cost of health care for most American families.

Now, to add insult to injury, we have higher gas prices, which are crowding out other spending and lowering the standard of living for American families who are struggling with the slow economic recovery we are experiencing.

The average price of gasoline in the United States has more than doubled since the week of the inauguration of President Obama in January 2009. In January 2009 a gallon of regular gas was \$1.89. Today it averages \$3.79 a gallon. The Associated Press reports that the average American household spent \$4,155 filling up at the pump in 2011. That is the annual cost of gasoline for a typical U.S. household.

I remember arguments—passionate arguments—about the payroll tax holiday and the President holding press conference after press conference saying, if we would just pass the payroll tax holiday, then families would have \$40 more a month spending money in their pockets. Well, higher gas prices have wiped that out and more.

Gasoline costs now amount to 8.4 percent of the median household income—8.4 percent. I am not telling anybody something they do not already know and they have not already felt, that they have not already experienced. Everyone has experienced the higher prices. This is the highest price for gasoline since 1981 when costs soared because of another crisis in the Middle East.

Weeks ago President Obama said there is very little he could do about high gas prices in the short term. I tell you, it is good he made those comments in Miami, FL, and not Midland, TX, because Texans know that greater domestic energy production would help reduce oil prices and, therefore, reduce gasoline prices. Roughly 70 percent of the price of gasoline is the price of oil from which gasoline is refined. You

know, sometimes I feel as though in Washington, DC, we are operating in a parallel universe that has very little in common with the rest of the country. And here it is—not to mix my metaphors—ships passing in the night. But the fact is, the laws of supply and demand cannot be suspended by the Congress or the President of the United States. President Obama used to agree with that.

Last March, for example, he said producing more oil in America would help lower oil prices. Well, lipservice will not produce lower oil prices, but, yes, producing more oil will because the greater the supply—we know the laws of economics say, demand being the same, greater supply will lower prices. The fact is, there is greater demand all around the world, not just in the United States, as economies are growing in China, in India, and Brazil and places such as that.

To add insult to injury, this administration has adopted policies that have directly conflicted with the goal of lowering oil and gasoline prices. I do not know how to reach any other conclusion but to say it appears to me that the administration has intentionally enacted policies that will raise gasoline prices. I know they will deny that. They will say it is not true. But I do not know any other explanation.

Let me provide the evidence that leads me to that conclusion and perhaps you will agree. Today we learned that President Obama has been busy calling Senators on the other side of the aisle and asking them to vote against an amendment being offered by Senator HOEVEN of North Dakota that would allow the Keystone XL Pipeline project to move forward—the President, on the phone calling Senators saying: Vote against the Keystone XL Pipeline amendment offered by Senator HOEVEN.

The President has previously said there is not a single morning he wakes up that he does not think about creating jobs. But, apparently, he woke up today thinking about how to lobby against jobs because the Keystone Pipeline, in addition to providing an additional supply of crude oil from the tar sands in Canada that would be transported to the United States, would be turned into gasoline in places such as Port Arthur, TX—apparently, the President got up and thought: How can I obstruct additional supply? How can I destroy the jobs that would be created, which is directly contrary to what he professed he does when he wakes up each morning thinking about how to create new jobs.

The Keystone XL Pipeline is a \$7 billion private investment that will create 20,000 jobs in construction and manufacturing alone. It will add tens of thousands of additional jobs throughout the economy in other sectors that will support the pipeline construction.

This is kind of personal for me and my constituents in Texas because we