

In my letter to the President, I listed some 34 regulations that my Kansas constituents noted had the most significant impact. I encouraged the administration to limit the use of this regulatory process and take every available opportunity to get feedback from those who would be most affected by these regulations and allow for ample time to review and consider that feedback prior to implementing future regulatory priorities.

Time and time again, I have heard no more regulations will be issued in the shortened process, and yet the interim rules continued to be issued. I have heard that stakeholder comments will be thoroughly reviewed and considered, but the actions by the administration don't seem to prove this. I have heard that economic impacts will be carefully considered, and yet the studies indicate otherwise.

If history truly does repeat itself, I don't have much hope of that.

TRIBUTES TO SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish to add my voice to those of my colleagues paying tribute to the senior Senator from Maryland, who recently became the longest-serving female Member of Congress in American history.

Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and I were first elected to the Senate at the same time. Over the past 26 years she has been a colleague, a legislative partner, and a friend. Courageous, determined, and honorable are only a few of the words I use when describing Senator MIKULSKI.

Senator MIKULSKI has devoted her life to public service. She began her career as a social worker in Baltimore, where she worked with high-risk children and educated seniors about Medicare. In 1971, she transitioned into politics by attaining a seat on the Baltimore City Council. As a council member, she continued to advocate for those in need. In 1976, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she became the first woman ever to sit on the influential Energy and Commerce Committee. As a member of the House, she worked on a variety of important legislation, including funding for shelters for battered spouses.

Issues concerning women have always been a passion of Senator MIKULSKI's. From sponsoring the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to being a leader in women's health issues, she has been a champion for women's rights.

Senator MIKULSKI was particularly helpful to me during the Grand Forks flooding in 1997. When our third largest city was devastated by flooding and fire, Senator MIKULSKI stood with Grand Forks residents every step of the way as we fought for Community Development Block Grant funding to recover and rebuild. Her support was critical. More recently, Senator MIKULSKI joined me in pushing for compara-

tive effectiveness research as part of health reform, so that patients and doctors can have better information on which treatments and medical interventions are most effective and which amount to wasteful spending.

Senator MIKULSKI is a fierce advocate for her constituents—and for working men and women everywhere. She will never back down from a cause she believes in, and she has compiled an impressive record of results. I congratulate her on being the longest-serving female Member of Congress.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a true trailblazer, my colleague Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI. Earlier this month, she crossed a major milestone by becoming the longest serving woman in Congress.

Before she set her sights on Congress, Senator MIKULSKI worked as a community activist, social worker, and a member of the Baltimore City Council. In 1977, she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland's Third Congressional District. At that time, she was one of only 21 women serving in Congress.

She never let any misguided stereotypes or long odds slow her down. Ten years later, she won her first race for the U.S. Senate and in the process became the first Democratic woman elected to this Chamber from the State of Maryland. She immediately lent her voice to issues like education, health care, and national service.

Along the way, she has given a voice not only to families and the middle class but also sent a powerful message to women all across this Nation. If there were ever any doubt, they now know for sure that they deserve a seat at the table in Congress. And her message is being heard. Since Senator MIKULSKI first was elected to the House of Representatives, the number of women serving in Congress today has increased to 92.

I have gotten to know BARBARA well, especially through our work on the Senate Appropriations Committee. I know she would rather we focus on her accomplishments regardless of her gender, but Senator MIKULSKI has blazed an important path. Along the way, she has never forgotten the value of hard work that was instilled in her from an early age. She has also built the kind of working relationships you need to get things done.

There is a reason the people of Maryland have sent BARBARA MIKULSKI back to the Congress time and again. She is telling their story and making sure that every voice has a chance to be heard. I want to congratulate her on this milestone. It is an important one for her and her family, and I believe it is symbolic of the gains we have seen our Nation make since she first was elected to Congress more than 35 years ago.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, in 1977, Jimmy Carter became our Nation's President, Elvis Presley died, and "Rocky" won the Oscar as best picture.

It was also the year my colleague, BARBARA MIKULSKI, came to Congress. She has served since then, for 10 years in the House and since 1987 in the Senate, with exemplary dedication to our Nation and its working families. Those of us who have had the pleasure to serve with her in the Senate and all the citizens of Maryland who have elected her to represent them celebrate this moment, for Senator MIKULSKI has become the longest serving female Member of Congress in our Nation's history.

BARBARA MIKULSKI is the first female Democrat to have served in both the House and the Senate, as well as being the first Democratic woman to be elected to the Senate without succeeding a spouse or father. She is, among all of us, truly a path breaker.

When she entered the Senate, there was only one other female Member of this body. Today, there are 17. BARBARA MIKULSKI has served as an inspiration, a leader, and a mentor to generations of women seeking to secure their rightful place as members of our Nation's highest legislative bodies.

Throughout her time in both the House and the Senate, she has worked tirelessly on behalf of the elderly, veterans, the poor, hard-pressed families, and our Nation's children. Daughter of a grocer, her roots are in Baltimore. She may have come a long way to play her important role here in Washington, but what makes her such a vital voice in Congress is that she has never lost touch with the values and needs of the blue-collar neighborhood of Highlandtown where she grew up.

BARBARA MIKULSKI entered politics as an activist and a populist, and she has remained true to that initial motivation. BARBARA MIKULSKI genuinely cares about the people of our Nation about all the people, not just the wealthy or the famous or the influential.

She understands the difficulties faced by working families as their incomes have been stagnant, as unions have declined, as disparities in wealth and income have widened dramatically. She is passionately committed to the importance of education for our young people, just as she respects and fights for our nation's elderly and their security as they negotiate the later years of life.

We serve together on the HELP Committee, on which she has long been a leader. No one, no one, better exemplifies the values of caring for those who are all too easy to forget working families, the elderly, the poor, the children than BARBARA MIKULSKI. Having worked with them both, I know how completely she has taken on the mantle of her friend Ted Kennedy and kept our committee focused on those whose needs are greatest.

As we celebrate the inspiration BARBARA MIKULSKI has been for the women of the Senate, Maryland, and the country, let's not forget that she has also been an inspiration to all of us. She has shown us how to fight for the powerless

and how to cast votes based on ethical values and a deep commitment to our fellow men and women, not based on political expediency.

For that leadership, both as a great female legislator and as an accomplished legislator with a lifelong commitment to improving the lives of all Americans, we honor her.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to my esteemed colleague, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI from the great State of Maryland. I am honored to recognize the historic achievements of my fellow Senator. On Saturday she became the longest-serving woman in congressional history after serving more than 35 years in both the House and Senate. Originally a social worker and community organizer in Baltimore, Senator MIKULSKI's congressional legacy began in 1976 when she was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Ten years later with her election into the U.S. Senate she became the first female Senator from Maryland as well as the first woman to be elected to both the House and Senate. Senator MIKULSKI deserves great honor and reverence for her dedication to the people of Maryland, the United States, and to the institution of the Senate.

Three years ago I entered these chambers as a freshman from a far-away State. Senator MIKULSKI was already known as a legend, to me and so many of my constituents. Since then, she has been an inspiration—and, to no one's surprise, a straight shooter and passionate advocate of her issues. More than once, when I have not yet signed onto one of her bills—usually something near and dear to her, like child abuse prevention—she has cornered me. And in a tough stance, all 4 feet 5 inches of her, she'll tell me why it is my duty to sign the bill. She is always right, and I am happy to follow her lead on such issues.

Throughout her time in Congress Senator MIKULSKI has been a champion for civil rights, fighting to end discrimination of all kinds. As the chairwoman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions she has continually fought to end discrimination in the workplace. In 2011 she was a sponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act, which ensures equal pay, regardless of gender.

She has also defended our Nation's teachers and students by fighting for more affordable and accessible education and supporting the needs of rural school districts. Just this year she introduced legislation that would ensure veterans who receive educational assistance from the Department of Veterans Affairs also receive adequate counseling when considering their educational options.

Senator MIKULSKI's accomplishments are numerous and diverse, from the day-to-day needs of workers, business owners, and students to the strengthening of scientific innovation and research. Senator MIKULSKI deserves

great honor and esteem for her dedication to fighting for the good of the people of Maryland and the Nation.

I am honored to serve alongside such a devoted advocate, and I look forward to her continued service in the U.S. Senate. She began her tenure in 1977 as one of 21 women serving in the House and today is one of 17 women in the Senate. She has helped paved the way for future generations. Yet she likely would not agree that women have come a long way over those years; instead she will say there is a long way to go.

Today I congratulate and pay homage to Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI. She is a friend, a mentor, and—so very often—the good conscience of the United States Senate.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to speak in honor of Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI. I join my colleagues in recognizing her for becoming the longest serving female Member of Congress in our Nation's history.

I know Senator MIKULSKI is more interested in results than milestones, but this is an appropriate moment to congratulate her for all that she has accomplished. She is both a tenacious fighter and gracious colleague.

The true measure of a society is how we treat people in the dawn and twilight years of their lives. By that standard, Senator MIKULSKI's career has been extraordinary.

From the start of her career in public service as a Baltimore social worker helping at-risk kids and seniors to today, she has been a champion for children and the elderly. She has been a champion for education, research, and veterans, and she has been an unflinching champion for Maryland.

Senator MIKULSKI has also been a friend since my first days in the Senate. Early on she reached out to me to explain the appropriations process in the Senate. My father, who spent his entire career in the U.S. House of Representatives, was always suspicious of the Senate. So to a freshman Senator making the transition from the House, hers was a welcome and reassuring gesture, kind of like the folksy gesture of calling me "cowboy," which always brings a smile to my face.

Senator MIKULSKI's style is a powerful counter to the old Washington joke that there are actually three political parties: Democrats, Republicans, and appropriators. She always values the input of other Senators and strives to balance the many competing priorities of all the Members of this body. For example, we have worked together on the Joint Polar Satellite System. This program is over budget and behind schedule, but it is also indispensable to public safety and our economy. As an appropriator, she has the unenviable challenge of striving to continually put this program on firm financial footing. In the process, she has repeatedly asked for my perspective and welcomed me into the process. This is above and beyond the call of duty but is so typical of BARBARA MIKULSKI.

Many have compared Senator MIKULSKI's streak to another famous Marylander's—Cal Ripken, Jr. I think Cal would agree with Barbara when she said, "It's not only how long I serve, but how well I serve."

She has undoubtedly served this institution, this country, and Maryland very well.

I commend Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI for her 35 years of service in Congress and look forward to her future successes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

PORTLAND'S FIRST AME ZION CHURCH

• Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I congratulate the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Portland, OR, on its 150 years of devotion to God and the Portland community.

In 1862, the A.M.E. Zion Church convened as the first of its kind in Portland, just 3 years after Oregon became a State. First Church's humble beginnings started in the home of Mrs. Mary Carr on A Street, now Ankeny Street, under the leadership of Rev. J.O. Lodge. Since then, the congregation has grown substantially and has weathered four relocations. It now has settled at its current home on North Vancouver and North Skidmore Avenue.

First Church has impacted countless lives over the course of its 150 years. It has provided shelter and clothing for the homeless, food for the hungry, and scholarships to young students chasing their dreams to college. Today, they continue their good work keeping youth off the streets and reducing gang violence. The church is a strong, positive force in the Portland community.

To Pastor Robert Nelson Probasco, Sr., and the First African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church of Portland: Thank you for your dedication, conviction, and faithful service to the people of Portland. •

ARGO MARKETING GROUP

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as the American economy becomes increasingly global, small businesses specializing in telecommunications and direct-response marketing provide essential services to businesses throughout the world. Today, I rise to commend and recognize Argo Marketing Group, located in Lewiston, ME, for being among the best in this expanding industry.

Jason Levesque founded Argo in 2003 to provide consulting and direct-response marketing services to companies in Maine and throughout the world. Since that time, this small firm has continued to expand despite the turbulent economy, adding numerous jobs throughout the State. In 2011, Argo Marketing moved from Auburn to Lewiston to allow for a company expansion, which included the doubling of