

The steadily growing bipartisan consensus behind this legislation has made it more important and more effective.

Senator LEAHY's bill, S. 1925, undermines the consensus that has been growing for two decades by introducing controversial and divisive proposals that fundamentally change the focus and scope of this legislation. If those proposals have merit, they should receive their own separate consideration with appropriate legislation introduced and hearings held. But it is inappropriate to use the Violence Against Women Act and the good will that it has attracted as cover for those new and divisive projects.

I support Senator HUTCHISON's bill both for what it contains and what it does not contain. First, it provides stronger penalties for crimes such as forcible rape, aggravated sexual assault, child pornography, and interstate domestic violence resulting in death. The Leahy bill is weaker than Senator HUTCHISON's when it comes to addressing these crimes, and in some instances it does not address them at all. Second, it targets more grant funding to address sexual assault and requires far more funding be used to reduce the backlog in testing rape kits. Third, it requires an audit of the Office for Victims of Crime to ensure that funds from the Crime Victims Fund are reaching those it exists to help. Fourth, it addresses problems with inadequate oversight and administration by requiring that 10 percent of grantees be audited each year and by capping the percentage of appropriated funds that may be used for administrative costs.

Senator HUTCHISON's bill does not contain the controversial and divisive provisions that the majority insisted on including. It does not, for example, authorize unused U visas from previous years to be used in the future. This provision in the majority's bill led the Congressional Budget Office to conclude that it will add more than \$100 million to the deficit. The Hutchison bill does not extend Indian tribal court criminal jurisdiction to non-Indians. A Congressional Research Service memo outlines a number of constitutional concerns regarding this provision in the majority bill.

Let me conclude by expressing both my disappointment and my thanks. I am truly disappointed that the majority has deliberately politicized the reauthorization of VAWA in a way that they knew would render impossible the kind of bipartisan consensus this legislation has had in the past. It seems that the majority was more interested in having a campaign issue for President Obama than in actually doing the hard work of creating a consensus bill that would protect women from violent crime.

However, I want to thank my colleagues, Senator HUTCHISON and the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY, for stepping up and offering this legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women

Act in a way that can attract that consensus and continue the effort to end violence against women.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL ABRAHAM TARWOE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today, along with my colleague, the Presiding Officer, to pay tribute to Lance Corporal Abraham Tarwoe, a Rhode Islander who served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

On April 12, Lance Corporal Tarwoe was killed while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. A memorial service will be held on Saturday in Rhode Island to honor his selfless sacrifice, and he will then be laid to rest in his native home of Liberia.

When he was about 7 years old, Lance Corporal Tarwoe left Liberia and started a new life in the United States. He was one among thousands of Liberians who came to the United States seeking safety from a civil war. We are proud that so many of these brave individuals and their families now call Rhode Island their home, and our State continues to be enriched by this strong community.

Lance Corporal Tarwoe enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in June 2009. He was on his second deployment to Afghanistan, assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, where he was serving as a mortarman and had additional duties as a military dog handler.

Each generation of Americans is called upon to protect and sustain our democracy, and among our greatest heroes are the men and women who have worn the uniform of our Nation and have sacrificed for our country to keep it safe and to keep it free.

It is our duty to protect the freedom they sacrificed their lives for through our service, our citizenship. We must continue to keep their memories alive and honor their heroism, not simply by our words but by our deeds as citizens of this great country.

Today, our thoughts are with Lance Corporal Tarwoe's loving family in Liberia, Famatta and Abraham Kar, his brother Randall, his wife Juah, and his son Avant, and all his family, friends, and his comrades-in-arms. We join them in commemorating his sacrifice and honoring his example of selfless service, love, courage, and devotion to the Marines with whom he served and the people of Afghanistan he was trying to help.

Lance Corporal Tarwoe is one among many Rhode Islanders who have proven their loyalty, their integrity, and their personal courage by giving the last full measure of their lives in service to our country in Afghanistan, in Iraq, and elsewhere around the globe.

Today, we honor his memory and the memory of all those who have served and sacrificed as he did. He has joined a distinguished roll of honor, including many Rhode Islanders who have served and sacrificed since September 11, 2001.

All of these men and women who have given their lives in the last decade in Afghanistan and Iraq have done a great service to the Nation. It is a roll of honor. It is a roll that Lance Corporal Tarwoe joins, and it should be for us a roll not just to recognize and remember but to recommit, to try in some small way to match their great sacrifice for this great Nation.

In Lance Corporal Tarwoe's situation, it also should remind us that this young man, born in Liberia, who came as a child and to Rhode Island, demonstrates to us all that being an American is about what is in your heart, not necessarily where you were born or what language you may have spoken as a child. It is about believing in America—believing so much that you would give your life to defend the values that we so much cherish.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT MAXWELL R. DORLEY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today, along with the Presiding Officer, my colleague, Senator WHITEHOUSE, to pay my respect and honor the life of Sergeant Maxwell R. Dorley, a distinguished and beloved member of the Providence Police Department, who passed away tragically in the line of duty.

Sergeant Dorley's personal story, which began in Liberia is another example of the extraordinary contribution of the Liberian community to the State of Rhode Island, along with recently deceased Lance Corporal Tarwoe of the U.S. Marines. Sergeant Dorley's story is also another example of inspiration and hope for all of us.

At the young age of 7, Sergeant Dorley followed his aunt, Hawa Vincent, to Providence, beginning his own chapter of the American dream, and he wrote a remarkable chapter in that great story of America. Sergeant Dorley attended Mount Pleasant High School, and not only graduated at the top of his class earning admission to Brown University, but he also befriended Kou, who would become his wife and partner for 27 years. His love and devotion to his family was so deep and genuine that when their first child, Amanda, was on her way, Sergeant Dorley declined admission to Brown University and began working four jobs so he could support his new family.

At this early stage in his life, Sergeant Dorley chose to prioritize his new family over himself. And as he did

so many times throughout his life, Sergeant Dorley thought about others before he thought of himself. His example of hard work—four jobs to support the family—is the story of America, coming here from someplace else, working as hard as you can to build a strong family and contribute to a strong community.

From helping his family pay off the notes on their cars to gathering old and used police uniforms for his fellow police officers in Liberia, Sergeant Dorley exemplified the best of what we expect from our public servants—a deep commitment to serving others for the greater good.

While terribly tragic, Sergeant Dorley passed away last Thursday doing what he knew best, helping others by trying to come to the aid of his Providence Police Officers, Edwin Kemble and Tony Hampton, who were trying to break up a fight.

Today, we offer our deepest condolences, and our thoughts are with all of Sergeant Dorley's family, friends, and colleagues, but especially with his mother Miatta who is traveling from Liberia, his wife Kou, and daughter Amanda, his son Robert, and all of his beloved family. We join them in celebrating Sergeant Dorley's many contributions.

Despite his short time with us, he gave us much, and we honor his memory and his service to the people of Providence as a Providence Police Officer.

The loss of Sergeant Dorley is also a reminder of the great sacrifice and incredible courage of all of our Police Officers who voluntarily put themselves in harm's way to preserve the peace and stability that allows us to enjoy our own lives. Today, we especially salute the service and sacrifice of Sergeant Dorley, and we honor the legacy he leaves of serving others and prioritizing the greater good over his own personal interest. We have indeed lost a remarkable individual and a great example of selfless service. Again, we offer our deepest condolences to his family.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. REED). The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, it is an honor to follow my senior Senator, JACK REED, who has been kind enough to preside now for me so that we may deliver these remarks together.

The State of Rhode Island has lost two men in recent days, two men who came from far away to our State to dedicate themselves to its service and to the service of our country, one serving our country with honor and distinction in Afghanistan and the other serving our Ocean State's great capital city of Providence.

U.S. Marine LCpl Abraham Tarwoe, of Providence, was a mortarman with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment of the 2nd Marine Di-

vision out of Camp Lejeune, NC. He deployed with the Second Marine Expeditionary Force Forward, where he served as a dog handler in addition to his duties as a mortarman.

Abraham was born in Liberia during a time of civil war. His mother and father sent him to America when he was only 7 years old to find a better life. He joined our Liberian community in Rhode Island, which is an important and valued part of our Rhode Island civic life.

Abraham grew of age and joined the Marines in June of 2009 and was promoted to Lance Corporal in August of 2010. In December he deployed for a second tour of duty to Afghanistan. He had earned the Combat Action Ribbon, the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the NATO Medal.

He died Thursday, April 12, from wounds sustained from an improvised explosive device during a dismounted patrol in support of combat operations in the Marjah district of Helmand Province. He was 25 years old.

His commanding officer, Captain Charles E. Anklaam III, said Abraham had an understanding of suffering and sacrifice from his childhood and family ties to Liberia. "He also knew about disproportionate service," Captain Anklaam said. "He held no birth obligation to America; in fact his citizenship was still being processed when he gave his life for his newly adopted country and his brothers-in-arms."

Abraham leaves behind his wife, Juah Kelly, and their 18-month-old baby boy, Avant Kar, who Abraham would talk to by webcam almost every night. My prayers for comfort and solace go out to them, and to Abraham's mother Famatta Kar, his brother Randall Kar, and to his network of extended family and friends in the United States and Liberia.

A memorial service will be held by Abraham's family and friends in Rhode Island this weekend. And then Abraham will be transported to Liberia, where a funeral will be held and he will be laid to rest.

On Monday, in Afghanistan, the Marines and sailors of Weapons Company gathered around a makeshift battlefield cross for their own memorial service in Abraham's honor. As Abraham's comrades stepped forward one by one to pay their silent respect, Yeager, the black lab who had been Abraham's partner since July 2011, walked to the front and lay down before his handler's cross.

The Marine's Prayer says, in part: "Protect my family. Give me the will to do the work of a Marine."

Abraham's wife Juah said that the Marine Corps was Abraham's other love, his second family. Abraham died doing the work of a Marine. And we pray in Abraham's memory for the protection of his brothers and sisters so bravely serving our country in the Ma-

rine Corps, and of his beloved family here at home.

Like Lance Corporal Tarwoe, Providence Police Sergeant Maxwell Dorley was also born in Liberia, and came to America as a child. He and his mother settled in Providence and Max attended Mount Pleasant High School where he met his high school sweetheart and wife, Kou. Max worked four jobs to support their young family, and eventually became a Providence police officer, where he would serve the people of Rhode Island's capital city for 15 years.

Max practiced community policing in the truest sense. He went by his first name when he was on patrol. His life experiences growing up in Providence public housing allowed him to relate to the kids in the neighborhoods on his beat.

Max was dedicated to the Police Department, and to the men and women of the force. When a call for back-up came across the radio this past Thursday morning from two officers trying to break up a fight on River Avenue, Max leapt into his cruiser. As he rushed to the aid of his fellow officers, lights and sirens blaring, he swerved to avoid a collision with a car that crossed his path. He lost control and struck a utility pole. He was rushed to Rhode Island Hospital, but his injuries were too great. Maxwell Dorley died at age 41.

He now joins a list of other Providence, Police Officers who have given their lives: Steven Shaw, Cornel Young, and James Allen.

Max is remembered as a devoted husband and loving father, always seeking the best for his children, Amanda and Robert, and encouraging them to follow their dreams. "Life has no limits," he would tell them.

Today, on behalf of the people of Rhode Island and the U.S. Senate, I send my wholehearted condolences to Kou, Amanda, and Robert, to Max's mother, Miatta Dorley, and to the brave men and women of the Providence Police Force who have lost another colleague and friend.

Max gave his life protecting the citizens of our community. And for that, we owe him a gratitude that we cannot repay.

We mourn the loss of two good men. Two men with similar beginnings, and a common calling to serve and protect others. Abraham and Max helped make our neighborhoods, our country, our world a better and safer place to live. They gave their lives, making a real difference in the lives of so many others. We honor them today in the U.S. Senate.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on Thursday, April 26, 2012, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 509 and 510; that there be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; and that any related statements be printed in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REED. 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.

STOP THE STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE HIKE ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on July 1, approximately 7.4 million college students will see the interest rate double on their student loans unless Congress takes action. For every year we fail to act, borrowers will pay \$1,000 more in interest on their loans. In January, I introduced S. 2051, the Student Loan Affordability Act, to maintain the subsidized student loan interest rate at the current 3.4 percent. Today, I am proud to join my colleagues Senator BROWN of Ohio and Senator HARKIN, the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, in sponsoring the Stop Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act. This legislation is a fully paid for, 1-year extension of the 3.4-percent interest rate for subsidized student loans.

There is bipartisan support for keeping interest rates low. Governor Romney has endorsed a temporary extension of the current 3.4 percent rate. Two-thirds of Republican Senators voted to cut the interest rate to 3.4 percent under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007.

The Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act will maintain the interest rate at 3.4 percent for another year. The 1-year extension is fully paid for by eliminating a tax loophole that has allowed some shareholder-employees of so-called S corporations to avoid paying their fair share of Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes. This offset will apply only to a subset of S corporations that are professional service

businesses—those that derive 75 percent of their gross income from the services of three or fewer shareholders or where the S corporation is a partner in a partnership whose primary activity is professional services. Additionally, the offset only impacts filers with income over \$250,000, filing jointly, or \$200,000, single filer.

The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, GAO, found that in the 2003 and 2004 tax years, individuals used S corporations to underreport over \$23 billion in wage income. The median misreported amount was \$20,127.

Closing this loophole will fully offset the \$6 billion cost of a 1-year extension of the interest rate and would make the Tax Code more fair. It is a win-win proposition.

Some may say that the Federal Government cannot afford to forgo the higher interest payments because of the budget deficit. However, this legislation is fully paid for and should garner support from both sides of the aisle.

It is a matter of priorities. We need to put the interests of middle-class Americans ahead of those who would avoid paying their fair share in taxes.

Student loan debt affects millions of Americans. Two-thirds of the class of 2010 graduated owing student loans, with an average debt of over \$25,000. Student loan debt has passed the \$1 trillion mark—exceeding credit card debt. Moreover, the students and families we are trying to help with the Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike have demonstrated economic need. Indeed, nearly 60 percent of the dependent students who qualify for subsidized loans come from families with incomes of less than \$60,000.

The question before us is, Will we make the student loan debt burden worse by allowing interest rates to double or will we take action to protect low and moderate income students?

We need to act fast. July 1 is only 66 days away. I urge all my colleagues to join with Senator SHERROD BROWN, Chairman HARKIN, and me in supporting the Stop the Student Loan Interest Rate Hike Act.

REMEMBERING ROBERT SATTER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to pay tribute to the extraordinary life and immeasurable legacy of long-time Connecticut legislator and Superior Court judge, the Honorable Robert Satter, who passed away on January 16, 2012, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The symbolic meaning of this coincidence resonated with many who admired Judge Satter for his crusading work on behalf of civil rights and equal opportunity.

After serving in the Navy during World War II, Bob dedicated himself wholeheartedly to the law, first as a well-known attorney in Hartford where he took on controversial death penalty

cases. In 1959, Bob won a seat in the Connecticut Legislature, attributing his successful campaign to the path previously blazed by Democratic Governor Abraham Rubicoff. He served in the Connecticut Legislature until 1961 and then again from 1963 to 1966 where he is known for fighting for society's most marginalized. As a State legislator, he penned Connecticut's first civil rights bill that targeted discrimination in housing sales. Starting in 1966, Bob served as general counsel to the Democratic legislative majority, and was nominated to the bench in 1975 as a Connecticut State judge. Although officially retiring at the age of 70, Bob served as a senior judge and trial referee—only vacating this role when he was too ill to continue serving.

As an attorney, legislator, Superior Court Judge and then as a senior judge, Bob continually challenged himself, presiding in many difficult and controversial cases and always working to make laws to serve the people of Connecticut.

He constantly made the time to give back to future generations of lawyers, teaching courses such as Constitutional Law at Trinity College, Liberties of an American at the University of Hartford, Administrative Law at the University of Connecticut's Graduate School of Political Science, and the Development of Social Policy at Yale University. Bob is a legend at the University of Connecticut Law School, where he taught a Legislative Process course for 27 years.

Bob achieved national renown, but was also well known personally throughout his local community, participating in informal groups, including book, poker, and writing clubs. In his last column for the Connecticut Law Tribune, "The Last Word on a Long, Rich Life," Bob wrote of his appreciation for practicing law in Hartford as opposed to New York City where he started out his legal career. In the greater Hartford area, Bob wrote, "I found time to participate in the community." He created the Hartford Community Renewal Team, which was Hartford's first agency dedicated exclusively to combatting poverty, and in his last published newspaper column, he wrote that he "would drop any legal matter to come to its assistance."

This humanity is clearly evident in Bob's essays and books—true gifts to future generations. When he turned 90, he wrote in the Hartford Courant: "Internally, I am a bunch of memories of people I've known, events I've experienced, books I've read and poems I can still recite. More and more I live in that interior space, recalling the past. When I die, that presence and circuitry will vanish." Respectfully, my own view is that his memories will endure through the family and friends that adore him, his legal accomplishments will withstand time, and his "presence and circuitry" will be ever vibrant.