

BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2194, a bill to award grants in order to establish longitudinal personal college readiness and savings online platforms for low-income students.

S. 2205

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2205, a bill to prohibit funding to negotiate a United Nations Arms Trade Treaty that restricts the Second Amendment rights of United States citizens.

S. 2239

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2239, a bill to direct the head of each agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses.

S. 2282

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2282, a bill to extend the authorization of appropriations to carry out approved wetlands conservation projects under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act through fiscal year 2017.

S. 2296

At the request of Mrs. HAGAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2296, a bill to amend the Higher Education Opportunity Act to restrict institutions of higher education from using revenues derived from Federal educational assistance funds for advertising, marketing, or recruiting purposes.

S. 2347

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2347, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the continued access of Medicare beneficiaries to diagnostic imaging services.

S. 2371

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. COBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2371, a bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to permit employers to pay higher wages to their employees.

S. 2620

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2620, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for an extension of the Medicare-dependent hospital (MDH) program and the increased payments under the Medicare low-volume hospital program.

S. 3053

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr.

RUBIO) and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. JOHANNIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3053, a bill to require Regional Administrators of the Environmental Protection Agency to be appointed by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

S. 3078

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3078, a bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day.

S. 3210

At the request of Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3210, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the treatment under contracting goals and preferences of the Department of Veterans Affairs for small businesses owned by veterans of small businesses after the death of a disabled veteran owner, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 40

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 40, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rules submitted by the Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service relating to the reporting requirements for interest that relates to the deposits maintained at United States offices of certain financial institutions and is paid to certain nonresident alien individuals.

S. RES. 455

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. FRANKEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 455, a resolution designating June 27, 2012, as "National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day".

AMENDMENT NO. 2107

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2107 intended to be proposed to S. 3187, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2108

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2108 intended to be proposed to S. 3187, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and

medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2118

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2118 intended to be proposed to S. 3187, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. HARKIN):

S. 3214. A bill to strengthen entrepreneurial education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today during National Small Business Week to discuss a strong, widely-supported bill that I filed today with the help of Senators LIEBERMAN, KERRY, and HARKIN. Over the past several months, as Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I have held three roundtables focused on strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the United States. We heard from entrepreneurs, small business owners, academics, local and Federal officials, and regulators, and we built quite a long list of strong ideas that we can implement or facilitate legislatively. I have converted many of these ideas into legislative proposals that I will file this week and markup soon in my Committee.

We have included several of such proposals in Today's Entrepreneurs are America's Mentors Act, or what I refer to as the TEAM Act. The TEAM Act addresses the domain of "Mentorship" in our entrepreneurial ecosystem. Its four provisions aim to nurture young Americans' innate entrepreneurial skills from the elementary school classroom through postgraduate business school and onward. We want to create jobs, and for posterity's sake we must begin with our young entrepreneurs. This bill will strengthen America's entrepreneurial ecosystem by empowering the Small Business Administration's, SBA, Office of Entrepreneurial Education, OEE, and invigorating students of all ages, entrepreneurs and mentors throughout the country. We want you to join the TEAM.

President Bush created the SBA OEE administratively in 2008. Currently, the OEE receives \$131,000 in annual funding. This OEE funding sustains its oversight of the successful SCORE nonprofit association, comprised of 11,500 volunteer business counselors throughout the United States. The TEAM Act will formally authorize the SBA OEE

and create a program, aside from overseeing SCORE, to conduct entrepreneurial education outreach and mentorship in K-12 schools and will be required to work with existing groups in the entrepreneurial education space. These groups are not-for-profit organizations, for-profit companies, community civic organizations, and SBA resource partners. We do not want to reinvent the wheel or allow for some bureaucratic intrusion. We simply want the SBA OEE to act on what its title suggests and coordinate among these already successful groups and facilitate and sustain the great momentum they have built in entrepreneurial education.

Second, the OEE will administer a scholarship program for MBA students to counsel local startup companies and small businesses. With a \$1,500 scholarship, 100 MBA students from around the country could share what they are learning in business school with small business owners near the school. The selected applicants would offer free technical assistance, TA, financial planning, and sustainable business practices. This scholarship program would scale up on the national level a successful program pioneered by the Idea Village in New Orleans. We know something about innovative entrepreneurship in Louisiana: Forbes magazine named New Orleans the "Biggest Brain Magnet" of 2011 and the second "Best City for Jobs;" in 2010, the Brookings Institute reported that the entrepreneurial activity in New Orleans is 40 percent above the national average; and Inc. Magazine called New Orleans the "Coolest Startup City in America." With all that said, I do not mind borrowing a few good ideas from the innovators in my hometown.

Third, the OEE would, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, give Congress a report on a possible correlation between record high student debt and record high youth unemployment and whether or not student debt deters someone from starting a business. If the OEE does find a correlation, the study should provide Congress some recommendations for legislation to address it in a manner that assists entrepreneurship.

Finally, the TEAM Act also requires the SBA to sponsor competitions, through its ten Regional Offices, in which local entrepreneurs, inventors, and small businesses compete to solve local public-private challenges. There would be a \$50,000 grant for each region's winning idea. The idea for these ten competitions is modeled after both the "Water Challenge" sponsored by New Orleans's Idea Village and the national mobile app competition for college students run by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Now that you understand the provisions in the TEAM Act, let me read out a long list of supporters. These organizations have been instrumental in providing my Committee with their ideas and perspectives on how best to help

young entrepreneurs with this legislation. Most are national groups that have worked for decades on teaching young Americans entrepreneurship and the importance of financial literacy and good business practices. Others are local, but nationally recognized groups with a national impact on jobs creation.

The TEAM Act has also received endorsements from Girl Scouts of America, Venture for America, and Mayor's Office, City of New Orleans.

We urge all of my colleagues here in the Senate to join us on the TEAM to promote entrepreneurial education and nurture the entrepreneurial spirit inside all young Americans. The TEAM Act will help students, entrepreneurs, and small business owners in all 50 States.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text and letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3214

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Today's Entrepreneurs are America's Mentors Act" or the "TEAM Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act—

(1) the terms "Administration" and "Administrator" mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively; and

(2) the term "small business concern" has the meaning given that term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

SEC. 3. OFFICE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 45 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) as section 46; and

(2) by inserting after section 44 (15 U.S.C. 657q) the following:

"SEC. 45. ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION.

"(a) OFFICE OF ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Administration an Office of Entrepreneurial Education, which shall develop and provide innovative entrepreneurial information, education, and resources, to promote prospective entrepreneurs and successful small business concerns.

"(2) DIRECTOR.—The head of the Office of Entrepreneurial Education is the Director of the Office of Entrepreneurial Education, who shall report to the Associate Administrator for Entrepreneurial Development.

"(3) DUTIES.—The Director of the Office of Entrepreneurial Education shall—

"(A) manage the online courses, online publications, and other online resources provided by the Administration to entrepreneurs and small business concerns;

"(B) manage the youth entrepreneurship programs of the Administration, including—

"(i) online resources for youth entrepreneurs; and

"(ii) coordination and outreach with entrepreneurial development service providers that provide counseling and training to youth entrepreneurs desiring to start or expand small business concerns;

"(C) coordinate with nonprofit and other private sector partners to share educational

materials on money management and financial literacy for entrepreneurs and small business concerns; and

"(D) provide assistance and courtesy services to individuals and foreign dignitaries visiting the United States who are interested in issues relating to entrepreneurs and small business concerns.

"(b) NATIONAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Today's Entrepreneurs are America's Mentors Act, the Associate Administrator for Entrepreneurial Development (referred to in this subsection as the 'Associate Administrator') shall establish a program under which the Associate Administrator may make grants to nonprofit organizations, including small business development centers, SCORE chapters, women's business centers, and other resource partners of the Administration, to provide technical assistance to primary and secondary schools for the development and implementation of curricula and mentoring programs designed to promote entrepreneurship.

"(2) APPLICATION.—A nonprofit organization desiring a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Associate Administrator an application that contains—

"(A) a description of the goals of the project to be funded using the grant;

"(B) a list of any partners that plan to participate in the project to be funded using the grant; and

"(C) any other information that the Associate Administrator determines is necessary.

"(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which a nonprofit organization receives a grant under this subsection, the nonprofit organization shall submit to the Associate Administrator a report that describes—

"(A) the individuals assisted using the grant;

"(B) the number of jobs created or saved through the use of the grant; and

"(C) any other information concerning the use of the grant that the Associate Administrator may require.

"(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015."

(b) REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES OF ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Entrepreneurial Education shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that describes best practices of entrepreneurial education and training programs throughout the United States.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a description of any programs that the Director of the Office of Entrepreneurial Education determines are exemplary, including national programs, regional programs, State programs, and local programs; and

(B) a summary of entrepreneurial education and training programs carried out by—

(i) the Federal Government;

(ii) State and local governments; and

(iii) as nonprofit organizations and private sector groups.

SEC. 4. MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION SCHOLARSHIP PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may award not more than 100 scholarships of not

more than \$1,500 on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to students who are pursuing a Masters of Business Administration degree.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.—A student receiving a scholarship under subsection (a) shall enter into an agreement with the Administrator under which the student shall, during the fiscal year during which the student receives the scholarship, provide free technical assistance, counseling, and other assistance to small business concerns and entrepreneurs on a full-time basis for a period of 1 or 2 weeks.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The Administrator shall ensure that—

(A) not less than 50 percent of the students receiving a scholarship under subsection (a) are students at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) where entrepreneurship opportunities are limited;

(B) the activities carried out under agreements under paragraph (1) support a variety of small business concerns and entrepreneurial projects, including independent investigator-led projects, interdisciplinary projects, and multi-institutional projects (including virtual projects); and

(C) each student receiving a scholarship under subsection (a) has a mentor to help the student relate the academic course of study of the student to the assistance to be provided under the agreement under paragraph (1).

(3) DATA COLLECTION.—A student receiving a scholarship under subsection (a) and a small business concern or entrepreneur receiving assistance under an agreement under paragraph (1) shall agree to provide to the Administrator information relating to the use and result of the assistance provided and employment status until the end of the 3-year period beginning on the expected graduation date of the student.

(c) FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH AGREEMENT.—If a student receiving a scholarship under subsection (a) fails to comply with the agreement entered under subsection (b)(1), the amount of the scholarship received by the student shall, upon a determination of such a failure, be treated as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087a et seq.), and shall be subject to repayment, together with interest thereon accruing from the date of the award, in accordance with terms and conditions specified by the Administrator (in consultation with the Secretary of Education) in regulations under this section.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$200,000 for each of fiscal years 2013 through 2015 to carry out this section.

(e) SUNSET.—The Administrator may not award a scholarship under this section after September 30, 2015.

SEC. 5. REGIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL COMPETITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting through the Associate Administrator for Field Operations, shall establish a program to host regional competitions and a national conference to address regional challenges through entrepreneurial research and business planning.

(b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) REGIONAL OFFICES.—The regional administrator of each regional office of the Administration shall—

(A) identify a prominent public-private issue that challenges a broad range of individuals in the region;

(B) sponsor a single regional competition among local small business concerns, inventors, and entrepreneurs under which persons

or groups of persons submit research and business plans to address the issue identified under subparagraph (A);

(C) provide outreach to universities, colleges, business communities, industry leaders and organizations, and nonprofit organizations to promote the competition and to request proposals for research and business plans;

(D) in coordination with the Director of the Office of Entrepreneurship Education, select the 3 research or business plans that best address the issue identified under subparagraph (A); and

(E) submit to the Administrator a report that contains the research or business plans selected under subparagraph (D).

(2) CONFERENCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting through the Associate Administrator for Field Operations, shall organize a single national conference for the presentation of the research and business plans selected under paragraph (1)(D) by the regional administrators.

(B) PANEL.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall designate 11 employees of the Administration to serve on a panel that shall select, from among the research and business plans presented at the conference, 1 plan from each region that best addresses the issue identified under paragraph (1)(A) for that region.

(ii) MEMBERS.—The Administrator shall designate as a member of the panel under clause (i)—

(I) 1 employee of the principal office of the Administration; and

(II) 1 employee from each of the regional offices of the Administration.

(3) GRANT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall award a grant of \$50,000 to each person or group of persons who submitted a plan selected under paragraph (2)(B).

(B) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Administrator awards a grant under subparagraph (A), the recipient of the grant shall submit to the Administrator a report on the use of the grant.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator \$750,000 to carry out this section.

SEC. 6. STUDY ON ENTREPRENEURIAL DEFERMENT OF STUDENT LOANS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall submit to Congress a report that includes detailed recommendations for legislation—

(1) establishing a program to forgive student loans in a manner that assists youth entrepreneurship by making available capital for business formation; and

(2) establishing a program to defer student loan repayments in a manner that assists youth entrepreneurship by making available capital for business formation.

MAY 18, 2012.

DEAR SENATOR LANDRIEU: It is with great enthusiasm that I submit this letter of support for Today's Entrepreneurs are America's Mentors (TEAM) Act.

Over a decade ago New Orleans was in a downward spiral, failing in all relevant areas of community vitality: education, jobs, health and crime. As a result, there was an exodus of talent; from 1990–2000 over 41,000 23–35 year olds left the State of Louisiana. This “brain drain” created a vacuum of innovative thinking needed to redirect the economy and to address critical social issues.

The Idea Village formalized as an independent 501c (3) nonprofit in 2002 to address the “brain drain” with a mission to identify,

support and retain entrepreneurial talent in New Orleans. What began as a small group of local entrepreneurs has evolved into an engaged global entrepreneurial ecosystem of over 2,028 CEOs, professionals, investors, MBA and high school students, corporations, entrepreneurs and civic leaders who have invested over 56,949 hours of mentorship and \$3.3 million in seed capital in 1798 New Orleans entrepreneurs. This network has helped create over 1,006 jobs and \$83 million in annual revenue.

Today New Orleans is at a tipping point and the movement that started in 2000 is showing measurable results. The August 2009 issue of Entrepreneur Magazine described New Orleans as a blueprint of economic recovery through entrepreneurship, and in April 2011, an article in Inc.com called New Orleans the “coolest startup city in America.” A 2011 Forbes article named New Orleans the “#1 brain magnet in the country” and the “#2 best big city for jobs.” During the second annual New Orleans Entrepreneur Week in March 2010, noted author and historian Walter Isaacson said, “New Orleans is a brain magnet instead of a place that will suffer a never-ending brain drain.”

Two of The Idea Village's most impactful programs that can be duplicated nationally are IDEAcorns and Entrepreneur Challenge Competitions:

1. IDEAcorns is an MBA service learning program started in the wake of Hurricane Katrina as bright MBA students around the nation descended on New Orleans to utilize their business skills to help local entrepreneurs execute high impact projects. Since 2008, 15 national business schools and 596 MBA students have participated in IDEAcorns. Participating universities include: Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Dartmouth, Cornell, Duke, Berkeley, DePaul, MIT, Columbia, Tulane, Loyola, University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago and Xavier Labour Relations Institute in India.

2. Entrepreneur Challenge Competitions have become an impactful way to provide entrepreneurs with much-needed resources while also galvanizing the community to develop for-profit solutions to regional problems. The Idea Village began this program by working with local partners to launch the Water Challenge in 2011, a six month intensive start up accelerator for entrepreneurs solving serious water management issues. The Water Challenge culminates in a \$50,000 pitch competition during the annual New Orleans Entrepreneur Week in March, bringing together entrepreneurs, industry experts, investors, students and civic leaders to support innovative solutions to local challenges. In addition, The Idea Village has executed an Education Challenge to encourage entrepreneurs to find innovative solutions to closing the education gap.

Entrepreneurial ecosystems require consistent support and nurture from the entire community. The Today's Entrepreneurs are America's Mentors (TEAM) Act is an excellent step towards infusing entrepreneurship throughout our communities and nation and I urge the Senate to give all due consideration to this legislation.

Sincerely,

TIM WILLIAMSON,
Cofounder & CEO,
The Idea Village.

EMPACT,

New York, NY, May 21, 2012.

Senator MARY L. LANDRIEU,
Chair, Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR LANDRIEU: My name is Michael Simmons, and I'm the Co-Founder and CEO of Empact, one of the leading youth entrepreneurship education organizations in the U.S.

Over the last six years, we've held entrepreneurship conferences on over 500 college campuses and high schools featuring the country's top young entrepreneurs. In addition, we've held a 300-person, invite-only, annual Summit for the entrepreneurship education industry at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, White House, and Capitol Hill featuring the field's top leaders. Our work with Chair Landrieu and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship began at the Capitol Hill portion of our Summit in 2011.

Through our work in these areas, our company has seen the large unmet need in exposing today's youth to entrepreneurship as a viable career path. We are in full support of the Today's Entrepreneurs are Mentors (TEAM) Act, as we believe it will have a large, positive impact on the entrepreneurship education field and help fill this unmet need.

Specifically, I believe the TEAM Act will help lead to a new generation of young people who look at problems as opportunities rather than stopping points. I am particularly in favor of the recreation of a program within the Office of Entrepreneurial Education that would conduct outreach and mentorship in K-12 schools.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL SIMMONS,
Co-Founder and CEO.

MAY 21, 2011.

Hon. MARY LANDRIEU,
Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LANDRIEU: We are writing to commend your work to reduce barriers to youth entrepreneurship in America and express our strong support for the TEAM Act. The "Today's Entrepreneurs are America's Mentors" Act contains a number of strong provisions that can provide that vital boost young adults need to start a business and find new economic opportunity. The TEAM Act reflects an important investment in the future of our country, and in the potential of this younger generation to be drivers of innovation and job creation.

In particular, the TEAM Act contains some of the key priorities that Young Invincibles and our partners in the entrepreneurship space have advocated for as part of the Youth Entrepreneurship Act (www.YouthEntrepreneurshipAct.com). The TEAM Act helps to increase the SBA's focus on young entrepreneurs by providing badly needed support for the Office of Entrepreneurial Education. This office has tremendous potential to support and expand some of the strong entrepreneurship education models that have already sprung up in high schools, community colleges, and universities across the country. The TEAM Act also strengthens support for entrepreneurship competitions, which have been a great and cost-efficient way to introduce young adults to the challenge of starting a successful business.

Finally, the TEAM Act requires the SBA to study and issue detailed recommendations to Congress on the feasibility of a student loan forgiveness and deferment program for people who start businesses. Young Invincibles has outlined this innovative policy idea in our Youth Entrepreneurship Act, and it has found considerable support among young adults as a way to address a major hurdle for young adults trying to start a business: the tens of thousands in student loans that are all too common for recent graduates. During our recent 20-state bus tour, we heard directly from young entrepreneurs struggling to pay back student loans and stand-up a new business simultaneously. We look forward to working with

the SBA and Congress to advance and study this promising idea.

Thank you again for your support of America's young innovators.

Sincerely,

AARON SMITH,
Co-Founder & Executive Director,
Young Invincibles.

Re Support for TEAM Act.

MARY LANDRIEU,
U.S. Senator, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LANDRIEU: Thank you for your support of entrepreneurship as a critical tool in economic development. I'm excited to endorse your efforts to authorize the Small Business Administration's Office of Entrepreneurial Education (OEE). Entrepreneurship Education is essential to DECA's mission to develop emerging leaders and entrepreneurs.

The Office of Entrepreneurial Education will strengthen small businesses, the backbone of our economy through partnerships with DECA and other entrepreneurship education organizations. It will provide new avenues to reach high school and college students with the exciting opportunities they have to create their own future through entrepreneurship.

Thank you again for your leadership in this effort.

Sincerely,

EDWARD L. DAVIS,
Executive Director,
DECA Inc.

MAY 18, 2012.

CHAIR LANDRIEU AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: As founder of the Young Entrepreneur Council, an invite-only nonprofit organization comprised of several hundred of America's top young entrepreneurs, I write today to express how proud we are to support your efforts to strengthen the youth entrepreneurship ecosystem with proposals included in the TEAM Act.

Since its inception in 2010, the YEC has promoted entrepreneurship as a means to overcome unemployment and underemployment by providing students and aspiring entrepreneurs with access to tools, peer-to-peer mentorship and resources to support each stage of a business' development and growth. Provisions of the TEAM Act will go a long way toward helping the thousands of young people we mentor each year achieve their goals—and spur new job creation.

Specifically, empowering the Small Business Administration's Office of Entrepreneurial Education (OEE) to conduct outreach and mentorship in K-12 schools will significantly impact the way we teach opportunity recognition to our youth, and regional SBA-sponsored entrepreneurial competitions will spur youth-led innovation at a relatively low cost to the government (but with the potential to lead to great gains in new jobs and businesses). The SBA Pilot MBA Scholarship program will change many lives, as has already been demonstrated in New Orleans, and we support the Senate Committee's vision for scaling the program nationally. Finally, a study on the effect of student loan deferment on youth entrepreneurship is timely and much-needed. Based on the obstacles facing young entrepreneurs that we've documented throughout our #FixYoungAmerica campaign, we believe that the results of this SBA-led study are the first step toward empowering young entrepreneurs burdened with student loan debt to create new businesses and jobs at a time when America needs it most.

With policy reforms such as the TEAM Act, the YEC can continue to speak out, edu-

cate, empower and improve our youth's ability to sustain themselves in today's challenging economy, and we are proud to voice our support for these importantly and timely efforts.

Sincerely,

SCOTT GERBER,
Founder,
Young Entrepreneur Council.

MAY 21, 2012.

CHAIR LANDRIEU AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: As Chief Executive Officer and President of the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), I am happy to extend our organization's support to the TEAM Act and your efforts to strengthen the resources available to expand entrepreneurship education to all young people in our country.

For nearly 25 years NFTE has partnered with schools and local business leaders to bring entrepreneurship education to youth in some of our most challenged and under-resourced communities across the nation, and we've seen firsthand how this type of intensive, experiential programming can demonstrate the relevance of school, invest students in academic pursuits and unlock in young people their potential as entrepreneurs, scholars and leaders in their communities.

The provisions outlined in the TEAM Act will serve as powerful catalysts to grow the impact of the work NFTE and other like-minded organizations do, in particular, by further empowering the Small Business Administration's Office of Entrepreneurial Education (OEE) and creating a network of regional entrepreneurial competitions.

The young people we work with each day face many obstacles and the policy reforms contained in the TEAM Act will create a powerful platform of solutions and tools to support the achievement of their personal and professional goals. We are proud to support these important efforts.

Sincerely,

AMY ROSEN,
President and Chief Executive Officer, NFTE.

NATIONAL FFA CENTER,
Indianapolis, IN, May 21, 2012.

Hon. MARY LANDRIEU,
Chair, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN LANDRIEU: Today there are over 540,000 student members of FFA in nearly 7,500 high school programs across the United States studying agriculture, developing their leadership skills and preparing for career success through agricultural education. A key part of agricultural education is experiential learning experiences that provide a hands-on way for students to learn, develop their skills and apply the knowledge learned in the classroom to serve real-world problems. We have always put a high degree of focus on developing our students' knowledge and application of entrepreneurship education as away of helping them achieve their career goals.

As a Senator from Louisiana I am sure you have a special appreciation for the role of small business and the critical role entrepreneurs play in starting businesses and creating jobs in rural communities. Entrepreneurship is a critical part of agriculture and is particularly important to the development and sustainability of rural communities. It is vitally important that young people learn and develop these skills in their earliest years to help them achieve success.

We support the expansion and increased focus of Entrepreneurship Education by the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee. We also encourage the committee to

consider language in the bill that would direct, incentivize and enable the Small Business Administration to work with other agencies such as USDA, Department of Education and others in developing an inter-agency working group that can develop a more comprehensive plan and approach to K-12 Entrepreneurship Education. To the degree that we can participate in supporting that collaboration and planning we would be happy to do so.

Thank you for your leadership in recognizing the importance of this issue and for putting forward legislation that will increase the visibility and effectiveness of Entrepreneurship Education. It is important to young people, our communities, our nation and the world.

Sincerely,

KENT SCHESCKE,
Director of Strategic Partnerships.

COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2012.

Hon. MARY LANDRIEU,
Chair, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LANDRIEU, I am writing in support of Today's Entrepreneurs are America's Mentors (TEAM) Act, legislation that is intended to strengthen the U.S. entrepreneurial ecosystem by empowering the Small Business Administration's Office of Entrepreneurial Education and invigorating students of all ages, entrepreneurs and mentors throughout the country.

We are particularly supportive of the SBA Pilot MBA Scholarship program that would provide a scholarship/fellowship to MBA students. Scholarship recipients would provide free technical assistance, financial planning and sustainable business practices to local small businesses and start-up companies. This provision recognizes the increasing importance of graduate education in providing the highly skilled talent the nation needs to be successful in the 21st century global economy. The role of graduate education in preparing a highly skilled workforce was addressed in the landmark report, *The Path Forward: The Future of Graduate Education in the United States*. That report reviewed trends and vulnerabilities in our nation's system of graduate education and proposed a set of recommendations to strengthen the enterprise. The report and executive summary are available at <http://www.fge-report.org/>.

A recent report, *Pathways Through Graduate School and Into Careers*, proposed increased collaboration among business leaders and university leaders to develop and support the next generation of entrepreneurs and innovators and is available at <http://pathwaysreport.org/>. Both reports were produced by the Council of Graduate Schools and ETS under the guidance of commissions of business leaders and university leaders.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your colleagues on exploring additional ways that U.S. graduate education, a strategic national asset, can support our nation's entrepreneurial enterprise. Thank you for your leadership in introducing this important legislation.

Regards,

DEBRA W. STEWART,
President.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT USA,
Colorado Springs, CO, May 21, 2012.

Chairwoman MARY LANDRIEU,
Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN LANDRIEU, on behalf of Junior Achievement USA, I am writing in

support of the proposed Today's Entrepreneurs are Mentoring (TEAM) act. This legislation would strengthen the federal entrepreneurship education outreach to our nation's schools and further empower groups like Junior Achievement to inspire students, entrepreneurs, and mentors throughout the United States.

With the job landscape of the 21st century continuously changing, an increased emphasis on entrepreneurial education for our nation's students is needed more than ever. The TEAM act appears to do just that. By encouraging the SBA Office of Entrepreneurial Education (OEE) to work with existing entrepreneurial outreach organizations, I believe more students will be inspired to take the innovative action needed to successfully compete in the world's marketplace.

As you may know, Junior Achievement (JA) annually prepares more than 4 million K-12 students across the United States. For close to 100 years, educating and training youth on entrepreneurship has been a vital component of JA's purpose as an organization. Along with financial literacy and work readiness, teaching students about entrepreneurship through hands on activities that promote an entrepreneurial spirit is woven into JA's programs. Since 1919, the JA Company Program has taught millions of students about the skills and responsibilities needed to start and run a business.

Given JA's history and scope of impact in the entrepreneurial education space, we stand ready to assist the OEE were your bill to become law. Thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation and we look forward to possibly working with you and your staff in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

JACK E. KOSAKOWSKI,
President and CEO.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself
and Ms. AYOTTE):

S. 3218. A bill to improve the coordination of export promotion programs and to facilitate export opportunities for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, this week we celebrate National Small Business Week. Small businesses are so important to job creation in this country. So much of the innovation that takes place in this country happens as the result of the work of small businesses. Two-thirds of the jobs we expect to be created to lead us out of the recession and through this recovery are going to be created by small businesses.

It is important that in this Chamber we do everything we can to support small businesses. I am pleased that I have been able to be a member of the Small Business Committee. I applaud the leadership of Senator LANDRIEU and Senator SNOWE, the chair and ranking member, for all of the good work they have done for small business.

I can tell you from my own personal experience just how important small businesses are. My husband and I started our married life and for 8 years ran a family business. It put us both through graduate school and gave us a downpayment on a house. It employed a number of young people for 8 years.

It taught me a lot about meeting a payroll and making sure we could take care of our employees, help make sure they had good jobs. So I have had that personal experience to make me understand just how critical small businesses are to our economy.

I am here on the floor also to talk about bipartisan legislation that my colleague from New Hampshire, Ms. AYOTTE, and I are introducing today to boost small business exporting.

Just as small businesses are the backbone of so much of this country's economy, they are clearly the backbone of New Hampshire's economy. It should come as no surprise to all of our constituents in New Hampshire that both Senator AYOTTE and I serve on the Small Business Committee because we know how important those businesses are to our State. We both recognize how critical it is for us as a delegation to work across the aisle and across Chambers when possible to help the small businesses in New Hampshire provide the good jobs the residents of New Hampshire need.

So I am glad Senator AYOTTE and I are working together to introduce legislation to help remove barriers to exporting for small businesses in New Hampshire and across the United States. The bill we are introducing today, the Small Business Export Growth Act, is the result of a Small Business Committee field hearing that we hosted together in Manchester, NH, last August. We held that hearing because we recognized that exports offer a tremendous opportunity for small businesses.

Unfortunately, for so many small businesses, those foreign markets have remained an untapped resource for most of them. Over 95 percent of the world's customers live outside of the United States, but only 1 percent of our small businesses export. That is a particularly shocking number when we compare to it large businesses because over 40 percent of large businesses sell their products overseas. So we have to do more to help our small businesses get into those international markets.

At our field hearing we heard about some of the barriers our small businesses face when they try to go global. Our legislation is an attempt to remove some of those barriers so that small businesses can access new sources of revenue and create jobs. One of the problems we heard about is that navigating the Federal bureaucracy can be a special challenge for small businesses that wish to export. I know the Presiding Officer and I can both appreciate that because we know how hard it is for us to navigate the Federal bureaucracy.

Senator AYOTTE and I heard from two such New Hampshire companies that rely on State and Federal offices to help them export. I want to talk about one of those companies specifically. It is a company that is called Secure Care. Secure Care has developed a technology that protects Alzheimer's patients who may wander away from

their home or their place of residence. It also protects newborns who are still in the maternity ward.

Grace Preston, who is the international sales manager for Secure Care, told us that the company has significantly expanded its growth by selling overseas. Grace also told us that Secure Care could not have done that without Federal and State export programs working together. In New Hampshire, we are very fortunate because our State and Federal export services work seamlessly, and that has been important in helping our businesses grow their exports.

In 2010 New Hampshire's exports grew about 40 percent. That was almost twice the national average and the most of any State in the country. So it has been very critical to our small businesses.

But we also heard that State and Federal agencies don't always have that same collaborative relationship in other places across the country. According to our former New Hampshire trade director, Dawn Wivell, these services sometimes, in some places, can overlap or, even worse, sometimes there are agencies that refuse to work together. Our bill attempts to require better coordination to make more successes like Secure Care a reality across the country.

Our bill also encourages the Federal Government to do more to promote the opportunity of exporting and to get the word out about Federal export programs.

Foreign markets can be daunting for small businesses, but that should not stop our innovators from trying to compete. Our small businesses must be assured that the Federal Government will help them when considering exporting. Part of our responsibility is to try to do everything we can to put into place policies that help small businesses when they want to try to export.

I thank Senator AYOTTE for her cooperation and for the work we have done together. I thank both Senator AYOTTE and her staff, along with mine, for working on this issue. I look forward to advancing this legislation in the Senate and to continue to recognize the important role that small business plays in our economy.

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I am pleased today to join my colleague from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN, in introducing the Small Business Export Growth Act, which would help small businesses better navigate the complex process of promoting and selling their goods abroad.

Senator SHAHEEN and I serve together on the Small Business Committee, and as she mentioned, we held a field hearing in Manchester, New Hampshire, last August to examine the role of exports in small business growth and job creation. We heard testimony from key national and New Hampshire-based stakeholders about ways to improve coordination among regulatory agencies, and how to ease

the burdens faced by small business owners seeking to grow and export their products to foreign markets. The Small Business Export Growth Act represents a commonsense, bipartisan response to the issues identified at that hearing.

This legislation makes improvements to the operational efficiency of the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee, TPCC, and improves Congressional oversight of the TPCC's activities. The bill also gives the Small Business Administration a larger voice in developing export policy and facilitates more networking opportunities for small businesses.

New Hampshire companies export to 160 countries and our exports are increasing at the fourth highest rate of any State. In fact, New Hampshire is leading the ten northeastern states in exports. Since 2003, New Hampshire exports have risen three times faster than the State's economy. Small businesses comprise over 96 percent of all New Hampshire firms, and it is imperative that we empower them with the tools they need to grow and hire. Opening markets around the world for our small businesses is an area in which we can find bipartisan agreement.

During the Manchester Small Business Week Forum I attended yesterday, I heard first-hand about the challenges small business owners are facing as they try to grow and create jobs in this tough economic climate. Exporting represents an enormous opportunity, not only for New Hampshire small businesses, but for small businesses across the country. The Small Business Export Growth Act will help smaller firms to compete in the global marketplace.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2127. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to revise and extend the user-fee programs for prescription drugs and medical devices, to establish user-fee programs for generic drugs and biosimilars, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2128. Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2129. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2130. Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. COBURN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2131. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2132. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. BURR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2133. Mr. DEMINT (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended

to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2134. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2135. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2136. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2137. Mr. ROCKEFELLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2138. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2139. Mr. SCHUMER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2140. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2141. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2142. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2143. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2144. Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. ROBERTS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2145. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2146. Mr. PORTMAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2147. Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts, Mr. BURR, Mr. COBURN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. COATS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. AYOTTE, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2148. Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. SANDERS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2149. Mr. KOHL (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3187, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2127. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted an