

The administration is currently establishing a "Do Not Pay" program based on the White House executive memorandum, Memorandum on Enhancing Payment Accuracy Through a "Do Not Pay List." However, there was no statutory mandate to proceed. The legislation establishes the "Do Not Pay" program in law throughout the Federal Government under a specific timetable.

Third, the legislation targets death fraud and improper payments to deceased individuals. Improper payments include those made to individuals who are deceased, and should therefore no longer be eligible under program rules, yet still receive payments. For example, the Office of Personnel Management Inspector General reported that \$601 million in improper payments were made to Federal retirees found to have already died. However, such payments to dead people were not unique to this one program. Improving the collection and use by Federal agencies of data on deceased beneficiaries will help curb hundreds of millions, if not billions of dollars, in improper payments. The IPERA Improvement Act requires that the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders, determine a plan for curbing improper payments to deceased individuals.

Finally, the legislation requires that the Office of Management and Budget report to Congress on the current efforts by agencies to recover improper payments, including a listing of agencies that employ outside contractors for recovery efforts, and their current levels and targets for recoveries. This reporting can easily be done as part of the annual report on improper payments currently conducted by the OMB.

I believe passage of the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act of 2012 represents an important step toward curbing waste and fraud within the Federal Government. I look forward to working with the administration and Federal agencies to implement the legislation's provisions. I also look forward to working with my congressional colleagues on additional steps during the next legislative session.

CONGRATULATING OLIVIA CULPO, MISS UNIVERSE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am pleased to offer my sincere congratulations to Olivia Culpo, a native of Cranston, RI, on being crowned Miss Universe. After being crowned Miss Rhode Island USA in her first ever pageant competition last year, Olivia's rise to Miss Universe has been nothing short of meteoric. In quick succession she became the first Rhode Islander to ever win the Miss USA competition, and is now the first Miss USA to win the Miss Universe pageant in over a decade. She has made the people of our State very proud.

The Miss Universe title is an acknowledgment of Olivia's exceptional intelligence, talent, and compassion. She was recognized by the National Honor Society for her academic excellence at Rhode Island's St. Mary's Academy Bay View. She currently attends Boston University in neighboring Massachusetts, where she has made the dean's list every semester.

In addition to excelling in her studies, Olivia is a talented and dedicated musician. From a young age, her love for music was cultivated by her proud parents, Peter and Susan Culpo, themselves musicians. She took cello lessons from second grade on, and has since performed with the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Orchestra, Rhode Island Philharmonic Chamber Ensemble, Bay View Orchestra, and Rhode Island All State Orchestra. This self-described cellist nerd has also had the honor of performing at Boston Symphony Hall and at Carnegie Hall in New York City, and she completed a tour of England in 2010.

Olivia has already demonstrated a strong drive to make a difference in her community and her country. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to meet with Olivia here in my Washington office, where she advocated passionately for Federal support of ovarian cancer research. I share her deep concern about the terrible effects of cancer. She is a valuable ally in the search for a cure.

Olivia has given the Ocean State something to be proud of. I am grateful to Olivia Culpo for the example she sets for our children and for being a stellar and faithful representative of the State of Rhode Island on the world stage. I wish her all the best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ANN MILLNER

• Mr. LEE. Mr. President, Nelson Mandela said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." In Utah, Weber State University President Ann Millner has lead the charge to increase, improve and enhance higher education opportunities for anyone who has sought them. After 10 years of distinguished service she is stepping down from her post and I rise to honor her today.

Before being selected president of the university, Ann served Weber in a variety of capacities including vice president for university relations, associate dean of continuing education, assistant vice president for community partnerships and director of outreach education in the school of allied health services. President Millner brought with her a well-rounded resume of leadership in education gained at several different universities. She served as education coordinator of the medical technology program at Vanderbilt University, instructional developer in

medical technology at Thomas Jefferson University, a lecturer at the school of health professions, Southwest Texas State University, and associate director of continuing education at the Edmonda campus of Gwynedd-Mercy College. Ann has given her career to the pursuit of improving educational opportunities around the country and that motivation has been central to her administration at Weber.

In 2002, Ann was selected as president of the university from a pool of 55 possible candidates. Regent George Mantes said, "In selecting a president of Weber State University we looked for someone who could lead a university that serves over 17,000 students and who would also be seen as a community leader for Northern Utah. We had terrific people to choose from and feel confident that in selecting Dr. Millner we have found the right person to fill both of these important roles." Mr. Mantes and the selection committee's confidence in President Millner has paid off. Under her leadership Weber State University opened a new campus in Davis and enrollment increased from 17,000 to 25,000. The university has added a number of new programs, certificates, baccalaureate and graduate degrees including seven masters degree programs and countless online course work which all serve to both enhance and expand the educational opportunities offered to students. Weber has gained particular acclaim for its growing engineering Computer and Electronics Engineering Technology department, which focuses on training students in the innovations and technologies of the future. In 2010 President Millner announced the "Dream Weber Program," one of the many scholarship and outreach programs her administration developed to make higher education a possibility for those who would otherwise not have the opportunity.

The new and upgraded facilities on Weber's campus stand as a powerful symbol of the legacy President Millner leaves behind. In addition to an entire new campus in Weber, President Millner oversaw the construction of the Hurst Center for Lifelong Learning, a two-story facility dedicated to helping provide students with opportunities to continue education. She also oversaw the opening of Wildcat Village, a residential housing facility that serves over 500 students with a fun, low-cost housing experience. She also oversaw the construction and opening of Elizabeth Hall, a state-of-the-art classroom building which features multimedia capabilities, writing and tutoring centers and enough classroom space to offer more classes than any other building on campus. These three buildings exemplify some of President Millner's major accomplishments during her presidency: to increase focus on education as a lifelong pursuit, to increase educational opportunities and to enhance educational experiences with cutting-edge technologies and facilities.

President Millner brought with her a vision of the collaborative relationship the university would have with the surrounding northern Utah community. In 2008, Weber State received the Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement, an award recognizing the collaboration "between educational institutions and local, state, regional, national and local communities for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources." Under her leadership, Weber State University also has taken part in the Utah Science, Technology and Research (USTAR) Initiative, which brings local businesses and industries together with educational institutions to "help commercialize high potential inventions, enhance the climate for innovation and entrepreneurship and stimulate the creation of local enterprises." The initiative provides students with the opportunity to gain first-hand business experience and has had a tremendous positive impact on the regional economy.

In the statement announcing her resignation, Ann quoted William James: "The best use of life is to invest it in something that will outlast it." She followed by saying "the work you are doing at this university will long outlast our time here. Our students, their families, and generations to come—all will be changed by what you are doing and what the university will continue to do in the future!" While Ann may have been addressing her remarks to the students, they are certainly just as applicable to her own efforts. Ann's tremendous vision and leadership has catapulted Weber State University to national recognition and a growing reputation for educational excellence. Sharon and I thank her for her service and for the charge she has led to increase the quality and reach of education within the great State of Utah.●

TRIBUTE TO GORDON LEDERMAN

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, included in the Department of Defense Authorization Act is bipartisan, bicameral legislation I co-sponsored titled "The Interagency Personnel Rotation Act," which seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Federal Government's national and homeland security operations by encouraging the temporary rotation of certain homeland and national security employees among the different agencies that have homeland security missions.

Like the Goldwater-Nichols Act, which established the principle of interagency rotation within our armed forces, this amendment will have the effect of building trust and better communications among these different agencies, thus enhancing their collective efforts to safeguard our nation from the terrorist threat.

Much of the credit for crafting this bipartisan legislation goes to Gordon Lederman, formerly Associate Staff Director and Chief Counsel for National

Security and Investigations on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Gordon left my Committee staff earlier this year due to illness. However, this legislation will add to his record of enhancing the security of our country, and especially of breaking down the barriers to greater cooperation and collaboration between agencies that must work together to keep our country safe.

Thomas Jefferson once asked the question: "What duty does a citizen owe to the government that secures the society in which he lives?" Answering his own question, Jefferson said: "A nation that rests on the will of the people must also depend on individuals to support its institutions if it is to flourish. Persons qualified for public service should feel an obligation to make that contribution."

Gordon has selflessly answered Jefferson's centuries old call and has had a distinguished career in public service dedicated to the security of our Nation.

Here are just a few highlights of Gordon's career.

In 2003, Gordon joined the 9/11 Commission staff and was responsible for assessing the Intelligence Community's senior-level management structure. His work included developing potential recommendations for intelligence reform modeled on the Goldwater-Nichols Act as well as examining Congressional oversight.

After the 9/11 Commission released its report in July 2004, Gordon moved to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee as a special bipartisan staff member. He served as the lead drafter and negotiator of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which enacted the Commission's recommendations to create the Director of National Intelligence and National Counterterrorism Center.

Gordon also worked on the Committee's investigation into the flawed response to Hurricane Katrina at all levels of government.

In February 2006, Gordon joined the U.S. National Counterterrorism Center to assist the Executive Branch in implementing the legislation he helped author. His work included the Center's organizational strategy and internal allocation of roles and responsibilities.

Gordon later returned to the Committee and was the lead investigator of the Committee's inquiry into the murders at Fort Hood on Nov. 5, 2009, when Maj. Nidal Hasan—a psychiatrist trained by the U.S. Army at taxpayer expense—entered the Soldier Readiness Processing Center with two loaded pistols and opened fire, killing 13 and wounding 32.

Following a 14-month investigation, the Committee released its report—"A Ticking Time Bomb: Counterterrorism Lessons from the U.S. Government's Failure to Prevent the Fort Hood Attack," of which Gordon was the lead writer.

The report detailed flawed practices and communications, both within and between the FBI and Department of Defense, which allowed Hasan to remain in the military—and even be promoted—despite many warning signs that he was becoming dangerous. The report also contained a series of recommendations that, had they been in place, probably would have led to Hasan's dismissal from the Army and prodded the FBI, which was aware of Hasan's suspicious actions, into a more aggressive investigation of his growing violent Islamist radicalization.

My time in the Senate is drawing to a close. I have already given my farewell address. However, I just wanted to take these few minutes to thank Gordon Lederman for the Interagency Personnel Rotation Act into law, and for his career long dedication to making our homeland more secure.●

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN TURNER

● Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, this month marks the retirement of Ms. Kathleen Turner after nearly 32 years in government service, specifically working in various capacities in the intelligence community. I commend her for her service to the Nation and wish her the very best in her retirement.

Ms. Turner has had a varied and distinguished career, having worked in different positions and capacities within the intelligence community. For most of that time, Kathleen worked where efforts and successes are not always rewarded publicly. I am glad we can do so here today.

I have known Kathleen mostly in her capacity as the director of the Office of Legislative Affairs for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, a position she assumed in the summer of 2006. For the last 6 years, Ms. Turner has had the sometimes unenviable job of representing the intelligence community on Capitol Hill and representing Capitol Hill to the intelligence community.

Ms. Turner is the daughter of Robert and Beverly Turner, a television repair shop owner and homemaker respectively, and was born and raised in the small suburban town of Pacific Palisades, in my State of California.

Kathleen is the fifth of seven children and she went to UCLA and majored in political science and then came to the East Coast. I am willing to forgive her for this lapse in judgment. Kathleen received a master's degree in international relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. When she completed her master's, she went right into the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Ms. Turner started her professional career with DIA as an analyst of Soviet strategic forces. She served as the Intelligence Liaison Officer to the Strategic Defense Initiative Office, and later served as the Senior Analyst for