

coaches Kimberly B. Wood, Toni Blake Greer, and Jomo K. Thompson saw their dedication and hours of practice pay off with victory. Truly, their efforts reflect well on their community, and they represent to competitors all over the world the unbridled spirit of Kentuckians.

At this time, I would like to publicly declare Kentucky's appreciation for this team, their coaches, and their parents who have received well-deserved recognition and success for their commitments and practice. The North Laurel High School cheerleaders have represented Kentucky well, and we are both grateful and proud. I would ask my colleagues in the U.S. Senate to join me in acknowledging their achievements, and I ask unanimous consent that an article detailing their success from the Laurel County-area publication the Sentinel Echo be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Sentinel Echo, Feb. 14, 2013]
NLHS, E.B. CHEER TEAMS WIN BIG AT
NATIONALS

LAUREL COUNTY, KY.—Laurel County cheer teams received high honors at the UCA Nationals in Orlando, Fla., this weekend.

The North Laurel High School team earned first place in the medium varsity division, as well as being named the first-place winners in world school and international cup competitions.

This was the first time the team has won first place at nationals since 2009.

"We have a very young squad," said Kim Wood, coach. "Our goal going into this was to hit a solid routine. We told the girls to focus just on us, not the other teams, and doing the absolute best we could do."

Although the team won first in world school last year, this was the first year they were named as champions of the international cup against teams from Canada, China, and Ecuador.

The outcome was a wonderful surprise, she said.

"It was our best performance at national level. It was pretty perfect in our eyes," Wood continued. "The awards were the icing on the cake."

It was ninth-grader Taylor Crockett's first high-school nationals. Crockett has competed in cheerleading since the sixth grade.

"It took a lot of hard work. At the beginning of the year, we really didn't know each other," she said. "We just started bonding as a team. That bond helped us."

Senior MaKayla Vaughn said this year was both "amazing" and "bittersweet" because it will be her last.

During competition, Vaughn said the team helped to keep each other calm, encouraging and supporting one another.

"We were the first team to go on," she said. "We told each other to set the bar high."

The East Bernstadt Tumble Cats also took home a big win this weekend at UCA Nationals.

The Tumble Cats won first place in the youth rec, or elementary, division against seven other teams.

In January, the Tumble Cats were named the elementary state champions for the second year in a row at the Kentucky Middle School State competition in Richmond.

The elementary team was formed just three years ago.

"They've gotten progressively better over time," said Coach Cristin Adams. "They worked really hard this year. These kids and their parents are very dedicated."

This was the first year Adams and Coach Darrin Spencer took the team, comprised of first- to fourth-graders, to UCA Nationals.

"We (she and Spencer) saw the potential of this team. Our goal was to make the top 3 (at nationals). We exceeded that and got first place."

Prior to competition, even making the top 3 looked to be a big feat.

"One week before we left (for nationals), we had two girls break their fingers," Adams said. "We had to rework our routine, and that's not easy, especially at this age, but we hit the routine solid."

The team trains at Damar Gymnastics in Lily, who choreographed their routine.

"Gymnastics is where the foundation starts," Adams said. "Technique is very important."

The majority of the 20-member team are third-graders, and most, Adams said, have been on the team for three years.

"Starting young helps feed into the older teams," she said. "And we want to be a good feeder program for North Laurel Middle and North Laurel High schools."

The North Laurel Middle School cheerleading team took second place in their division at UCA nationals.

NLMS team coaches include Katie Sizemore, Paula Crawford, and Susan Tolliver.

NLHS team coaches include Wood, Toni Blake Greer, and Jomo Thompson, who is also the University of Kentucky head cheerleading coach.

PANDEMIC AND ALL-HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I am pleased to come to the floor in support of the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act of 2013, PAHPRA. Last week, the Senate passed this bill by unanimous consent and last night the House passed the bill with overwhelming bipartisan support. I am so pleased PAHPRA is getting sent to the President to be signed into law. Enacting this bill is critical for Marylander's safety, jobs, biotech companies, State and local health departments, and our State's economy. It is also critical that we understand and be responsive to the unique health care needs of children in disasters.

Recent disasters at home and abroad have underscored the importance of preparing our Nation to respond to a range of medical and public health emergencies, whether naturally occurring or the result of a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attack. Over the past decade, multiple Congresses and administrations have worked together to put in place critical medical and public health preparedness and response programs and policies. As a result of the passage of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, PAHPA of 2006, the Federal Government, in partnership with State and local governments, took significant steps to strengthen our Nation's medical and public health preparedness and response capabilities. This bipartisan

reauthorization builds on these efforts by enhancing existing programs and authorities using lessons learned over the past 5 years to maximize our Nation's resilience to threats, whether naturally occurring or deliberate.

I thank Senators HARKIN, ENZI, BURR, ALEXANDER, and CASEY for their dedication and commitment to reauthorizing the programs in this bill and protecting our country from threats. By coming together, passing this bill, and sending it to the President to get signed into law, we will strengthen our Nation's ability to prepare for and respond to all hazards emergencies, and we will ensure that we have looked out for our children. The congenial and bipartisan process we followed should be a model for how we do all of our work here in Congress.

PAHPRA includes important provisions that I fought for as Chairwoman of the HELP Subcommittee on Children and Families. I led the effort to create a National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters to continue the good work started by the National Commission on Children and Disasters. The advisory committee, established by my amendment, will bring together children's advocates and federal agencies to ensure we are well equipped to care for our most vulnerable population when preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster. I am committed to getting this advisory committee up and running this year. Doing all that we can to protect our most vulnerable is of the utmost importance.

I would also like to thank the American Academy of Pediatrics for their commitment to children's health and for building a coalition of support for my amendment to establish the Advisory Committee. Save the Children and the Children's Health Fund were also steadfast advocates for this committee and other important pediatric provisions contained in this bill.

This advisory committee will include a variety of pediatric experts, from those who work in Federal agencies, to non-federal health care professionals, to employees of relevant State and local agencies. I made sure that at least four members of this committee would not be federal bureaucrats to ensure that all views and perspectives are considered. Community-based pediatricians, nurses, and State and local public health and emergency management professionals are on the front lines responding to emergencies every day. These folks know what the situation is like on the ground.

The advisory committee will serve an important role in making sure that the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Homeland Security swiftly implement the medical and public health recommendations put forth by the National Commission on Children and Disasters. Committee members will also advise federal agencies on the medical and public health policies and

procedures that the agencies and their grantees should implement to meet the needs of children when preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all hazards.

As we all know, children are not little adults. Kids who are battered during a disaster and suffer physical harm or are exposed to an infectious disease, need special medications, devices, and supplies, whether it is a liquid form of a medication, a pediatric ventilator, baby formula, or even diapers.

PAHPRA reauthorizes several provisions that I have fought for over the years that support the research and development of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear countermeasures. Project Bioshield and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, BARDA, are economic engines of Maryland's economy supporting both biotech innovation and domestic manufacturing. Project Bioshield is a secure funding source dedicated to the purchase of medical countermeasures. BARDA contracts with companies to support the development and commercialization of medical countermeasures and carries out all Project Bioshield acquisition contracts. Project Bioshield and BARDA together provide drug manufacturers with the incentives they need to enter this market and develop lifesaving therapeutics.

Maryland companies are investing in research and development of medical countermeasures for bioterror threats because they know there is a federal market to buy their drugs, vaccines, needles and masks for the Strategic National Stockpile for use when a disaster strikes. Marylanders are working hard every day to create countermeasures that we hope to never use but will rely on when we are most at need to save our lives and our kids' lives. They are developing the next generation anthrax, influenza, and smallpox vaccines for the Strategic National Stockpile. The drugs we are working so hard to develop also protect our troops deployed around the world so that our soldiers get the right treatments to keep them safe.

PAHPRA also codifies the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise Strategy and Implementation Plan. I worked to ensure that the Department of Health and Human Services would report on what our country needs to protect our kids so that companies will know what countermeasures to develop and HHS and Congress will know how many and which products to buy for the stockpile. I also made sure that FDA would report to Congress annually on the scientific challenges and progress made in developing and licensing countermeasures for pregnant women and children.

I also fought to make sure that State and local health departments would have the workforce and financial resources they need to prepare for infectious disease outbreaks like the H1N1

influenza, earthquakes, and floods, as well as numerous other public health threats that communities face on a day-to-day basis. In that vein, I worked to improve state and local disaster planning for kids. It is important that local education, child care, and other agencies are regularly partnering and consulting with health departments as they develop and revise their preparedness plans. PAHPRA supports the good work that happened in our communities during H1N1. State education, child care and health agencies were partnering and consulting with each other day in and day out for almost a year to minimize the ill health effects of this novel virus. Our public servants at the federal level were critical to the response and they worked closely with local officials to protect us every hour of every day during the pandemic.

We must prevent and respond to health threats before they are on our doorstep. Making this bipartisan legislation the law of the land will help do just that. And I will fight to make sure we are funding these programs so that we can be prepared for any and all emergencies that we may face here in the United States.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT VEHICLE FLEET

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, with a \$16.5 trillion national debt, the Federal Government needs to spend taxpayer dollars more efficiently and reduce costs during these tough fiscal times.

In 2011, the Federal Government owned nearly 660,000 vehicles. Although the size of the fleet decreased slightly from the previous year, it had still increased significantly over the past several years. Between 2006 and 2011, the Federal Government fleet has grown by more than 29,000 vehicles.

A 2012 Government Accountability Office, GAO, report examined the increase in the number of Federal vehicles, excluding postal and nontactical military vehicles. According to the study: "Since fiscal year 2005, the number of federal non-postal civilian and non-tactical military vehicles has increased about 7 percent, from about 420,000 to 449,000 vehicles."

On February 28, 2013, I introduced bipartisan legislation that would save millions in taxpayer dollars by reducing the amount the Federal Government can spend on buying and leasing nonessential vehicles. In its recommendations, the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform strongly endorsed trimming the Federal vehicle fleet, and estimated it would save approximately \$500 million.

This bill would reduce by 20 percent the Federal funding available for the acquisition and leasing of new Federal vehicles. It would also require agencies to maintain this funding level through 2017. Like the Fiscal Commission, however, this bill exempts the U.S. Postal Service from the reduction. It also provides an exception for vehicle pur-

chases critical for national security reasons. Similar legislation passed by voice vote in the House of Representatives in September 2012.

This legislation would simply do what most American families are doing on a day-to-day basis. The Federal Government has to learn more with less.

I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this common-sense legislation. I want to thank my colleagues for the opportunity to speak on the Senate floor today in support of this bill.

RECOGNIZING WOODY HAYES' 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and career of Woody Hayes, who touched the lives of many Ohioans through his leadership and coaching legacy. Woody Hayes was born on February 14, 1913, in Clifton, OH. On February 14, 2013, Coach Hayes would have celebrated his 100th birthday. After graduating college, he joined the Navy in 1941 to serve his country during World War II. He later received his master's degree from the Ohio State University in 1948. In 1951 Mr. Hayes started his coaching career at the Ohio State University, where he continued coaching until 1978, when he retired.

Woody Hayes is known for his outstanding winning record. Under his leadership, the Buckeyes won 205 games, 5 postseason bowl games, 13 Big Ten Championships, 3 consensus national championships—1954, 1957 and 1968—and 2 other nonconsensus national titles—1961 and 1970. Hayes was elected College Coach of the Year in 1957 and 1975 and served as president of the National Football Coaches Association. He also coached 3 Heisman Trophy winners and 56 first team All-American players.

Woody Hayes' real legacy was the way he impacted the lives of those around him. He was known to take personal interest in the lives of his players and their academic careers. In 1979 the Ohio State University created a scholarship in his honor, to help college athletes continue their education. Though Woody Hayes is no longer with us, I am pleased to honor his great legacy and all the lives he has touched.

RECOGNIZING THE KING ARTS COMPLEX

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the King Arts Complex for 25 years of dedicated service to central Ohio. Named after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the complex's mission is to preserve, celebrate, and teach African-American cultural and historic heritage while developing a greater understanding among all people.

In 1987, when the King Arts Complex opened, it brought new life to a once vibrant area. I have visited the King Arts Complex and attended a celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther