

Yet, amendments have been filed seeking to deny the EITC for all registered immigrants for eternity, even after the individual has obtained legal status. One of these amendments was offered during the committee process, and was rightly rejected. I will strongly oppose any amendment to deny hard working families from participating in these tax credits when they are paying payroll taxes.

While CBO estimates refundable tax credits may total \$127 million during the first 10 years after passage of comprehensive immigration reform, those tax credits are more than fully offset by the payment of taxes. Remember that revenues increase and the deficit decreases under our legislation. So when those tax credits are seen in the context of the increased taxes being paid, they are offset by increased revenues every year.

Some who oppose comprehensive immigration reform had raised the false alarm that this immigration bill would drain our Social Security Trust Fund and bankrupt our Medicare system. Nothing could be further from the truth. In an editorial dated June 2, 2013, entitled “A 4.6 Trillion Dollar Opportunity,” *The Wall Street Journal* stated unequivocally that “Immigration reform will improve Social Security’s finances.” That has now been substantiated by the CBO report, which estimates decreases in the off-budget deficit every year beginning in 2014 following enactment this year.

The goal of this bill is to encourage undocumented immigrants to come out of the shadows so we can bring them into our legal system and so everyone will play by the same rules. If we create a reason for people not to come out and register, then it will defeat the purpose of this bill. Amendments that seek to further penalize the undocumented will encourage them to stay in the shadows. These steps will not make us safer and will not spur our economy.

One of the many reasons we need immigration reform is to ensure that there is not a permanent underclass in this great Nation. As part of this effort, we need to continue the vital safety net programs that protect children, pregnant women, and other vulnerable populations. Too often, immigrants have been unfairly blamed and demonized as a drain on our resources. The facts are—as substantiated by the CBO report—just the opposite. Immigrants reinvigorate and grow our economy.

The bottom line is that enacting our judiciary committee reported bill will significantly reduce our budget deficit and grow the economy. It is the smart thing to do and the right thing to do.

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I was unable to cast a vote on the motion to table the Cornyn amendment No. 1251 to S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. I missed the

vote today because I joined my family at my daughter’s high school graduation ceremony. Had I been present, I would have voted to table the Cornyn amendment.

We all agree that we need to do what is necessary to secure our border, but I would have voted to table the amendment for several reasons. One of the cornerstones of this legislation is bringing the roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants out of the shadows by creating a fair, tough and accountable path to citizenship. Delaying this pathway by several years would be a disservice to our economy, our safety, and our identity as a Nation of immigrants.

This amendment could delay or even prevent undocumented immigrants from starting on the path to citizenship, and cost taxpayers up to \$25 billion. It is important to commit more resources and build on the progress we have already made on the border, and that is exactly what the bill already does. In the underlying bill, the Department of Homeland Security must submit two border security strategies to Congress within 180 days after enactment, one for achieving effective control of the entire southern border and another plan specifically for improving fencing on the border. The bill will immediately appropriate a total of \$4.5 billion for these two plans to be implemented.●

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, with the passing of Senator Frank Lautenberg this month, the Senate lost one of its most respected and accomplished members—a great progressive driven by a passion for justice and a deep love for this country.

Indeed, Frank Lautenberg’s remarkable life is the American dream personified. He was the son of poor, hard-working immigrant parents who entered America through Ellis Island. He served in the U.S. Army in World War II, attended Columbia University thanks to the GI bill, founded an enormously successful company, and was elected five times to the U.S. Senate.

Senator Lautenberg will be remembered here in the Senate for his tenacity and fearlessness in pursuit of his ambitious legislative goals. Frank was a fighter. Time and again, he took on powerful interests to improve the health and safety of the American people, and countless individuals have led longer, healthier lives as a result of his tireless advocacy.

One of Senator Lautenberg’s great early accomplishments came in 1984, just 2 years into his first term. As a freshman Senator in the minority party, he successfully passed legislation establishing a national drinking age of 21. That law alone is estimated to have saved more than 25,000 lives. Sixteen years later, he championed legislation effectively creating a nationwide ban on driving by anyone with a blood-alcohol content of .08 or higher, a change that also dramatically reduced alcohol-related traffic fatalities.

I was proud to work closely with Senator Lautenberg in the fight to combat the public health threat posed by tobacco usage. He will forever be remembered as the author of the landmark 1989 law that banned smoking on all domestic airlines flights—and that law was just the beginning of his efforts to curb smoking in a broad range of public places. In the current Congress, I was proud to join him in an effort to stop tobacco smuggling and to increase and equalize tobacco taxes.

Throughout his career, Senator Lautenberg championed women’s health issues. He worked to ensure that students have access to comprehensive sex education; that woman who go to their neighborhood pharmacy to fill a prescription for birth control cannot be turned away because of the objections of the pharmacist; and that Peace Corps volunteers have access to insurance coverage for abortion services in cases of rape, incest, and life endangerment. He also fought for women’s reproductive rights internationally and was a long-time advocate for repealing the “global gag rule” on federally funded family planning organizations.

Even in his final months as he battled cancer, Frank was unstoppable. He continued the fight to secure relief for victims of Superstorm Sandy. In April, using a wheelchair, he insisted on coming to the Senate floor to cast votes in favor of tougher gun safety legislation. And, to the end, he continued to lead the fight for long overdue legislation to keep Americans safe from thousands of toxic chemicals we encounter in our daily lives, including in furniture, fabrics and cleaning products. I can think of no better way for Senators to honor our late colleague than by passing chemical safety legislation for the first time in nearly four decades.

Frank Lautenberg began his career in public service as a citizen soldier in Europe in World War II. It must be noted that Frank was the last veteran of World War II to serve in the Senate. In January, we lost another distinguished veteran of World War II, Senator Dan Inouye. The fact is, for nearly six decades, this institution has been enriched and ennobled by members of the “greatest generation”—people like Philip Hart, Bob Dole, George McGovern, Fritz Hollings, Dan Inouye, and Frank Lautenberg—who began their public service in uniform in wartime, and who brought a special dimension to

the Senate. They had a unique perspective on matters of war and peace. They were motivated by a patriotism not of words, but of deeds and sacrifice. And they were determined advocates for veterans, including veterans of our most recent wars.

Here in the Senate and across the Nation, there have been many tributes to our friend Frank Lautenberg. As I said, he was a passionate progressive. He was a tenacious fighter. He was a Senator of many landmark legislative accomplishments. But knowing Frank as a true gentleman and great family man, I can think of no greater tribute than to note that Senator Frank Lautenberg was a man of enormous honor, decency, and graciousness. He was a wonderful friend. May he rest in peace.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would like to offer some brief reflections on the distinguished service and accomplishments of Senator Frank Lautenberg.

He possessed an unwavering commitment to our country and its highest ideals of duty and fairness.

His achievements over a lifetime well lived are impressive. He came from very humble beginnings but showed tremendous determination and tenacity as he achieved success in business and politics.

Senator Lautenberg was a World War II veteran—serving honorably in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1942 to 1946, posted in Europe with so many other young Americans to fight in a war that had to be fought. In fact, he was the last World War II veteran to serve in the U.S. Senate.

After the war, he like so many benefited from the GI bill and graduated from Columbia University. He had seen the hard work of his parents and began a career in business where he recognized the importance of computer technology well before the advent of many innovations we take for granted today. His success in helping create the Nation's first payroll services company, Automatic Data Processing, could have led Senator Lautenberg anywhere, but it was his desire to give back to his community and to his country that had given him an education and a promising future that led him to the Senate.

When he set his eye on doing something, being on the other side of him meant you were in for a battle. That resolve may be a reason why he had so many legislative achievements. Indeed, he knew how important infrastructure is to the economy, and his work to preserve and improve Amtrak has helped millions of Americans who rely on rail for commuting, travel, and commerce every day. Growing up in an industrial area, he knew how important it was to respect the environment, so he fought, even when the odds were against him, for cleaning up Superfund sites, improving air quality, and ensuring better oversight of toxic chemicals. And when he saw the health damage that smoking can cause, he led the way to ban smoking on airplanes.

The issue of gun safety is where I worked most closely with him. Those efforts to stem the flow of guns to criminals, terrorists, and others who shouldn't have access to firearms gave me a deeper appreciation for the strength of his principles and beliefs. There was no one more engaged in this issue, and I know that as the effort continues to close the gun show loophole, his commitment to reducing gun violence in our country will serve as a true guidepost.

As so many pointed out in the wonderful service remembering Senator Lautenberg, he was tenacious as well as humorous. Indeed, he fought for New Jersey and for what he believed was right each and every single day.

The Senate and our country have lost an important voice on so many issues, but his work will carry on and not be forgotten. Indeed, the benefits to our Nation of all his efforts and dedication will last for years to come.

I extend my deepest condolences to Bonnie; his children, Ellen Lautenberg, Nan Morgart, Lisa Birer, and Joshua Lautenberg; his stepchildren, Danielle Englehardt and Lara Englehardt Metz; and his 13 grandchildren, on behalf of myself, my constituents, and the State of Rhode Island. Their loss is greater than ours because they have lost a husband, father, and grandfather. He will be missed.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, earlier this month, we lost one of our Nation's most beloved public servants. Senator Frank Lautenberg was a World War II hero, a successful businessman, a statesman—and above all else, a kind and generous man, one that I am honored to have called a friend. Frank will be greatly missed by New Jerseyans, his colleagues in Washington and his family and friends across the Nation.

Much can be said about Frank and the priorities he championed. But what struck me most is that Frank fought for the little guy. His public career was built on the foundation of being a champion for a safe, clean, healthy and economically stable America. In the U.S. Senate, he championed efforts to preserve America's landscape and natural beauty. Like me, he believed that America's precious land and resources should be protected and conserved for future generations to honor and enjoy. Frank knew that we don't inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. And Frank believed in a sustainable American energy system—one that increases energy independence and prioritizes renewable energy efforts such as wind, solar and geothermal. As a leading voice in Congress on climate change, Frank was acutely aware of the harmful effects global warming has on our planet, and he led the charge to ensure Americans—and his colleagues—were aware that the overwhelming science should spur us to reverse this dangerous trend.

Frank's contribution to his State and our Nation extends far beyond his envi-

ronmental accomplishments. He led policy reforms that are too numerous to catalogue here. For example, Frank fought hard to establish health and safety standards and ensured that public health in America was a priority for legislators. A key player behind landmark legislation establishing a federal blood-alcohol level limit and banning smoking on airplanes, Frank's public health initiatives have improved the lives of millions of Americans. Generations to come will benefit and live longer and healthier lives because of this great American statesman.

Frank was a real champion for the people of New Jersey, but what many people may not know is that he is also a true friend to the state of Colorado, my home State. From the initial planning stages to the final product, the existence of Denver International Airport can be largely attributed to Frank Lautenberg. DIA received an unprecedented amount of Federal financial help, largely in part to Frank's unwavering support of the project. He also publically supported the construction of C-470, maintaining that the major highway was an essential addition to Colorado commerce and industry. Throughout the country, he supported the development of urban public transportation and pushed to strengthen Amtrak. Without Frank's dedication, our national transportation system would have not kept pace with our growing population.

After casting his 9000th vote in 2011, Majority Leader HARRY REID recognized Senator Lautenberg as one of the most productive Senators in the history of this country. Frank's wisdom and tenacity made him an influential figure in the U.S. Senate for nearly 30 years. I am grateful to have served alongside him. His enduring spirit and strong character will not be forgotten within the halls of Congress.

My sincerest condolences go out to Frank's family, including his wife, Bonnie Englehardt; six children and their spouses, Ellen Lautenberg and Doug Hendel, Nan and Joe Morgart, Josh and Christina Lautenberg, Lisa and Doug Birer, Danielle Englehardt and Stuart Katzoff, Lara Englehardt Metz and Corey Metz; and 13 grandchildren.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, it is a great privilege to rise and honor the late Senator Frank Lautenberg. I think I speak for many of my colleagues when I say he was a true hero to New Jersey and in the Senate, a self-made man, and an inspiration to us all.

I was proud to count Frank as a good friend and mentor. We shared similar backgrounds—children of Eastern European immigrations—and similar convictions. I will never forget Senator Lautenberg's courage when he cast important votes on gun violence prevention just a few months before his death. He had a renewed hope that we could save many lives and prevent more Americans from facing the senseless violence that we all experienced

with the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School. In tribute to Frank, and to the Newtown families, I will continue to fight for gun violence legislation. I am sure that Frank would agree that this battle will be a marathon, not a sprint, and we need to keep pushing forward.

Many have risen over the last few weeks to pay tribute to Frank. I am similarly humbled by his many years of service and the number of accomplishments that we can attribute to his leadership. As the last serving World War II veteran, his bravery in battle will never be forgotten. He was a relentless and unremitting fighter for public health causes, such as controlling the harmful effects of public tobacco use, raising the drinking age to 21, and banning toxic household chemicals. He was determined to witness the effects of his legislative efforts, and many times he did live to see his tremendous work.

Frank was a champion of the rail community for many years, leading transportation safety issues. Throughout his tenure he improved passenger rail systems, protected Amtrak, and pushed for improvements to high-speed rail. Frank was certainly in my thoughts as I chaired a hearing of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation yesterday on rail safety. I am grateful for his tenacity and proactivity on these issues.

We have lost Frank Lautenberg's stirring presence on the floor, but never in our hearts. For 28 years, he pushed for important changes as a force for good, refusing to give up the public fight for his steadfast convictions. Cynthia and I send our love to Bonnie and the Lautenberg family.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2013

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to mark the 12th World Refugee Day, a day we honor the courage, strength, and determination of those who are forced to flee their homes under threat of persecution, conflict, and violence. Our nation's role as a safe haven for the persecuted is an integral part of our history. The United States was founded as a beacon of freedom and tolerance—freedom of speech and religion, and tolerance of all creeds and cultures. And throughout the years, Americans have fought to ensure that those rights are upheld for all of us.

Too often, we take these bedrocks of our society for granted. We forget that most of the freedoms we now enjoy are still being fought for in too many places around the world.

Today, there are over 43.7 million refugees and internally displaced people around the world. The protracted conflict in Syria has only exacerbated this problem.

To date, UNHCR estimates that 1.6 million Syrians have fled into neighboring Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt. With the vast majority of

refugees—1 million—fleeing within the first 5 months of this year.

This past February I visited the Kilis refugee camp in Turkey, which is currently sheltering over 15,000 Syrian refugees. I was able to witness first-hand the remarkable bravery of the Syrian refugee population. Many of these families relocated several times within Syria before ultimately making the heart wrenching decision to leave their homes and their country, to seek food, medical attention and safety outside of Syria.

But I also recognize the enormous economic strain this influx has caused on host countries. In Jordan, for example, the Syrian refugee crisis has increased the country's overall population by 10 percent, and the crisis has had profound social, economic, and political implications. We know that this is not easy, but we applaud Jordan and other refugee host nations for their actions and we have pledged humanitarian support for these communities.

The Syrian crisis is just one example of a troubling global problem. There are millions of refugees around the world—many of whom have been living in camps and settlements for decades. Whether from Iraq, Afghanistan, Mali or South Sudan, this diverse group, scattered across the globe, has one overarching commonality: they once lived in a place they called home, but by ill-fated circumstances were forced to flee, often with no hope of returning.

I know many of you agree with me when I say that addressing the refugee crisis is not a luxury, it is a necessity. As history has shown us, unstable and poverty stricken countries are very vulnerable to dictators and other extreme forms of government. Therefore it is imperative that our development and foreign assistance programs continue to have the resources necessary to ensure that the United States remains the nation that preserves and protects freedoms around the world, and the nation that supports our friends and allies when they do the same.

As United States citizens we enjoy so much that is rare in other parts of the world. Apart from reminding ourselves of all that we are thankful for, today should also spur us to action. As a global leader, the United States should lead the charge in aiding refugees around the world, and by our example inspire others to do the same.

OBSERVING WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today in observance of World Refugee Day. Established by the United Nations on June 20, 2001, World Refugee Day honors the courage, strength, and perseverance of those forced to leave their homes under threat of persecution and conflict, as well as those escaping extreme poverty or environmental degradation. This annual commemoration recognizes the tremendous challenges faced by mil-

lions of displaced persons throughout the world and pays tribute to their invaluable contributions to the communities that have provided them shelter.

Ongoing violence and the harmful effects of climate change have forced millions of people across the globe to make the impossible decision between risking their lives at home and leaving behind everything in search of safety. Refugees are individuals and families whose lives have been uprooted, whose communities have been destroyed, and whose future remains unclear. While these displaced people struggle for the most basic services, they are also looking for an opportunity to lay down new roots and provide for themselves and their families.

For over 30 years, Coloradans have welcomed refugees into their communities, offering safety, security, and a place to call home. Our great State has provided them with an opportunity to use their diverse skills and expertise to make meaningful contributions to our way of life in the West. Today, we have over 48,000 refugees who have settled in Colorado from countries all across the globe. I would like to acknowledge this population for adding to our rich cultural heritage, for expanding our understanding of the world, and for strengthening our economy.

While we will never be able to fully understand the sacrifices made by these vulnerable individuals and families, it should be a top priority to remember their struggles and recognize their strength. As a U.S. Senator, I reaffirm the commitment of Colorado and our Nation to the refugees, and I pledge to continue to work to address the underlying causes of refugee flows.

On behalf of a grateful nation and State, I commend those who have risked their lives working individually, or with the multitude of dedicated non-governmental organizations, to provide life-saving assistance and shelter to those displaced around the world. Let today serve as a reminder of our international responsibility to help our neighbors and of the importance of our shared humanity.

ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about my bill, S. 112, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Pratt and Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rivers Protection Act. I have introduced similar legislation in previous Congresses; in fact, this is the third time I have made a legislative push to protect these treasured spaces. It passed the Senate by unanimous consent on Wednesday, June 19, 2013, for the first time, and I wish to thank my colleague from Oregon for all his tremendous work to get a package of public lands bills through the Senate for the first time in over 4 years.

Passage of this bill is a tremendous step forward and is the result of over 5 years of work by me, my staff, and Congressman REICHERT, who has introduced companion legislation in the