

On May 20, 2013, the New York Times reported in an article entitled, “‘Camping out for five days, in hopes of a union job,” the following:

The men began arriving last Wednesday, first a trickle, then dozens. By Friday there were hundreds of them, along with a few women. They set up their tents and mattresses on the sidewalk in Long Island City, Queens . . . and settled in to wait as long as five days and nights for a slender chance at a union job as an elevator mechanic. . . . There were more than 800 by sun-up Monday. . . . The union accepts 750 applications for the 150 to 200 spots in its four-year apprenticeship program.

There are more examples, and I could go on. But I do believe this idea that Americans won’t work is not correct. If we take a person who has been unemployed for a while and place them in a position where the labor is physical, it takes a while to get in shape. If you are going to play ball, it takes a while to get in physical condition. People going into the Army are not expected to meet the physical fitness test the first week. They build up to it.

Businesses have to participate in this effort, too. Businesses need to understand they are not entitled and cannot expect—for the government of the United States to produce perfectly fit, well-trained people for every single job they would like to fill. Sometimes they have to hire people, train them on the job, let them work into it and learn the skills on the job. It is some new idea, apparently, that businesses have to have so much training. We certainly need to use the job-training programs in this country to more effectively train workers for real jobs out there. It is a valid criticism of our trade schools and some of our community colleges that they are not focusing on reality. But my State has done a great job—a far better job than in most States—and I saw a report recently about how Mississippi is doing an excellent job. I believe our program is at least as effective, if not better. So we are doing better. But businesses have always had to bring people into their workplaces and train them to handle the physical challenges that some jobs require.

Madam President, I thank the Chair for an opportunity to share these remarks. I am disappointed that when we are talking about unemployment in America, we have a Congress and a Senate refusing to even allow this amendment to come up for a vote. Without a doubt it would work, be fair, and would simply make it more difficult for people who are not here lawfully, who shouldn’t be able to get jobs in America—would make it more difficult for them to get that job, freeing that position up for unemployed Americans who need to get in the workforce and off the welfare rolls. That is the goal.

We have a huge number of welfare programs. We spend \$750 billion a year on means-tested programs to help people who are lower income, and that is 50 percent more than the defense budget, more than Social Security, and

more than Medicare. Those programs are not working well. They need to come together in a coherent whole with a unified vision. The vision should be to help people who are in stressful circumstances; help them aggressively, in a practical, realistic way; put them in a job-training program that would allow them to take a job. We could easily do that with the money we are spending now. We would have more Americans working and off the welfare rolls. We would save billions of dollars at the same time. They would make more money, be more fulfilled, have more self-respect, and reduce the budget deficit at the same time.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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.

JUSTICE FOR ALL REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week, I called on members of the Senate to come together and support reauthorization of the Justice for All Act, a bipartisan law that increased resources devoted to DNA and other forensic technology, established safeguards to prevent wrongful convictions, and enhanced protections for crime victims. The bipartisan bill to reauthorize this historic law was reported unanimously by the Senate Judiciary Committee last fall. Every Senate Democrat has cleared the way for passage of this important measure, and I hope Senate Republicans will soon follow suit so that we can take one step closer to reauthorizing this law that protects and supports victims of crime.

The programs created by the Justice for All Act have had an enormous impact, and it is crucial that we reauthorize them. The legislation strengthens important rights for crime victims, reauthorizes the Debbie Smith DNA Backlog Grant Program, seeks to improve the quality of indigent defense, and increases access to post-conviction DNA testing to help protect the innocent.

The reauthorization legislation also strengthens the Kirk Bloodsworth Post Conviction DNA Testing Grant Program. Kirk Bloodsworth was the first person in the United States to be exon-

erated from a death row crime through the use of DNA evidence. The program named for Mr. Bloodsworth provides grants to States for testing in those criminal cases like Mr. Bloodsworth’s where someone has been convicted but where significant DNA evidence was not tested. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013 expands State access to post-conviction DNA testing funds by restricting the evidence preservation conditions set for this program to felony cases, which is a more attainable goal for States.

This legislation also takes important steps to ensure that all criminal defendants, including those who cannot afford a lawyer, receive effective representation. It requires the Department of Justice to assist States in developing an effective and efficient system of indigent defense. I know as a former prosecutor that the system only works as it should when each side is well represented by competent and well-trained counsel.

The bill also asks States to produce comprehensive plans for their criminal justice systems, which will help to ensure that criminal justice systems operate effectively as a whole and that all parts of the system work together and receive the resources they need.

The bill reauthorizes and improves key grant programs in a variety of areas throughout the criminal justice system. Importantly, it increases authorized funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant program, which is a vital program to assist forensic laboratories in performing the many forensic tests that are essential to solving crimes and prosecuting perpetrators.

We need to continue the bipartisan work that has been done. During the Judiciary Committee mark-up we unanimously adopted amendments before passing the bill, one from Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, and one from Senator JEFF FLAKE. Both amendments strengthened rights for crime victims, and added to the comprehensive improvements contained in the bill.

I thank Senators COONS, UDALL of New Mexico, MCCONNELL, KLOBUCHAR, FRANKEN, PORTMAN, FEINSTEIN, HATCH, SCHUMER, LANDRIEU, BURR, COLLINS, BENNET, and SHAHEEN for their support as cosponsors of this bill.

I am glad to be partnering with Senator JOHN CORNYN on this legislation. We have done important work in the Judiciary Committee to support law enforcement and victims of crime. Last week, he and I introduced sweeping legislation to improve the use of forensic evidence in criminal cases. The Criminal Justice and Forensic Science Reform Act helps ensure that forensic labs throughout the Nation operate according to the highest standards, and that State and local labs have the resources they need. Both that measure and the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013 are important priorities to support our criminal justice system and law enforcement.

We must stand behind these bipartisan efforts, and I urge Senate Republicans to join all Senate Democrats in supporting passage of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013.

COVINGTON CATHOLIC COLONELS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I believe my Senate colleagues are well aware of how seriously we take our college basketball in my home State of Kentucky. The Kentucky High School Athletic Association, KHSAA, State Basketball Championship has been played every year since 1918 and is truly a special event.

Kentucky is one of three States that does not divide its schools into classes based on size—that means one State, one tournament, and only one champion. Teams that advance out of their district tournaments play in one of sixteen regional tournaments—the winners of which advance to play in the KHSAA Sweet Sixteen in Lexington's legendary Rupp Arena.

This year, over 14,000 fans packed the stands for the championship game and watched Covington Catholic High School defeat Scott County in an overtime thriller. I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches and fans of the 2014 champions—the Covington Catholic Colonels.

For the Colonels, led by head coach Scott Ruthsatz, the road to the school's first-ever title was not easy—it seldom is in this grueling, statewide tournament. Covington Catholic found themselves down in the second half in three out of their four Sweet Sixteen games—including the championship. The players never gave up hope, though. On his team's 27 to 18 halftime deficit in the championship game, tournament MVP Nick Ruthsatz—Scott's son—said coolly, “We've been in this position before and we knew we could pull through.”

As it turned out, Nick's confidence was not misplaced. The Colonels stormed back, tying the game at 47 with only 50 seconds to go, and sending the game into overtime. In the extra period, it was the Colonels' staunch defense and clutch free throws that propelled them to a 59 to 51 victory.

The 97th KHSAA Basketball Championship, like so many before it, was an excellent display of athletic ability as well as sportsmanship. This tournament would not be what it is without the efforts of the players, coaches, fans, and teachers of all the participating schools. They are all worthy of our praise.

However, in Kentucky, there can only be one champion. Thus, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating the Covington Catholic Colonels on winning the 2014 KHSAA State Basketball Championship.

An article was recently published in the Cincinnati Enquirer chronicling Covington Catholic High School's championship win. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer,
Mar. 24, 2014]

COVINGTON CATHOLIC REJOICES IN HISTORIC BASKETBALL TITLE

(By James Weber)

LEXINGTON.—Ben Heppler stood at center court on the Rupp Arena floor and kept looking around at all the chaos and celebration around him.

Chaos, celebration and cheer, same first letters as Covington Catholic Colonels, who were celebrating their first state basketball championship March 23.

“I'm trying to soak it all in,” Heppler said. “I'll remember this for the rest of my life.”

Cov Cath outlasted Scott County in overtime, 59-51 Sunday afternoon, March 23, at the University of Kentucky's historic basketball arena. It was the third title in Northern Kentucky history, and the second in the past six tournaments by a Ninth Region team (Holmes, 2009). It was also the first in Cov Cath history in its ninth trip to the Sweet 16.

“It's incredible,” said senior forward Mark Schult. “You dream of it, as a little kid, going out and winning your last game, and it's hard to believe we actually did it.”

The Colonels finished with a 33-2 record. After losing to Holmes in the 35th District final, the Colonels won seven straight games. They trailed in the second half in three of the four state tourney games.

With a veteran team and most of the student body in attendance as the Colonel Crazies, it was a great day for Covington Catholic.

“It's so special,” said head coach Scott Ruthsatz. “You have to look at the administration on down, what they're doing at Covington Catholic. You have to give so much credit to the Crazies. Our Colonel Nation really supported us, and not just this game, all season long. Being the first winner of it, it feels fantastic.”

Said Heppler: “It's really special to be the first ones and hang that first banner up there. We've always had that empty spot and since Coach Ruthsatz's first day we said we would be the ones to put it up there. The 6 a.m. workouts in the summer, playing in the gym all those times, it paid off.”

Cov Cath's fitness and toughness in adversity paid off against the experienced Cardinals, who were seeking their third state title (35-4). After an early 9-3 lead, Cov Cath was on the wrong end of a 22-4 run and trailed 27-18 at halftime. Scott had three 3-pointers in a 70-second span by junior Hines Jones, who averaged four points a game for the year. Forward Tony Martini had Scott's first five points and posted 17 points and 16 rebounds for the game. Cov Cath shot just 6-of-22 in the first half, several of those misses coming from around the rim.

“We've been in this situation before and we knew we could pull through,” Nick Ruthsatz said. “We knew eventually we would start hitting some, and the fourth quarter we just buckled down. All the conditioning through the summer pulled us through.”

Cov Cath trailed by four points, 47-43, with 1:33 to go. Ruthsatz tied the game with a pair of foul shots with 51 seconds to play.

Ruthsatz gave Cov Cath its first lead since 9-8 early in OT, then tied the game at 51 with 2:16 to play. A tip-in by junior Bo Schuh gave the Colonels the lead for good with 1:46 to play.

After three missed shots by the Cardinals on their next possession, Ruthsatz grabbed the rebound and made two foul shots with 57 seconds to play to make it 55-51. Following

another missed shot, CCH senior Parker Keller made two free throws, then Heppler scored the final points of the season on a fast-break layup.

“We just played better defense, tried to lock them down,” Heppler said. “That's the experience of this team with three senior starters and Parker hitting those huge free throws at the end. It's a team game. Everybody can score. Most teams around the state don't have five guys who can guard everybody, so that works to our advantage.”

Ruthsatz had 25 points and five assists. Schult had 12 points and six rebounds. Heppler scored eight with a pair of treys. Freshman guard Cole VonHandorf had nine points, and Schuh posted 12 rebounds.

One of VonHandorf's chief tasks was guarding Scott County star guard Trent Gilbert, who came in averaging 26 points per game. The Mr. Basketball finalist, who is getting interest from several Division I schools, only scored 10 points on 4-of-25 shooting. Cov Cath rotated several defenders on him and often double-teamed him in the backcourt.

“We just tried to pressure him as much as possible, because we knew he's a great shooter,” Scott Ruthsatz said. “You can never leave him open. We had a hint of the way he likes to go and shoot, and we tried to keep fresh guys on him.”

The fatigue may have hand in two crucial foul-shot misses by Gilbert. A 91-percent shooter for the year, Gilbert made 28 in a row in the Sweet 16. However, he missed the front ends of two one-and-one situations late in regulation.

“I love stepping up and being able to shut him down,” VonHandorf said. “They told me if I shut him down, we win. I tried my best. He's a great player; I'll give him so many props. I can't wait to see where he goes next year. (Assistant coach) Joe Fredrick told me all of his moves, I had them all down, I felt I could play him fairly well.”

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, section 114(d) of H.J. Res. 59, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, allows the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and levels filed on January 14, 2014, pursuant to section 111 of H.J. Res. 59, for a number of deficit-neutral reserve funds. These reserve funds were incorporated into the Bipartisan Budget Act by reference to sections of S. Con. Res. 8, the Senate-passed budget resolution for 2014. Among these sections is a reference to section 302 of S. Con. Res. 8, which, in subsection (c), establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund for unemployment relief. The authority to adjust enforceable levels in the Senate for unemployment relief is contingent on that legislation not increasing the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2013 through 2018 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2013 through 2023.

I find that amendment 2874, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014, to H.R. 3979 fulfills the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for unemployment relief, including not increasing the deficit over either of the 2013 through 2018 or 2013 through 2023 budget windows. Therefore, pursuant to section 114(d) of H.J. Res. 59, I am adjusting the budgetary aggregates, as well as the allocation to the Committee on Finance.