

Vermont has shown tremendous leadership in this area, and I hope we can all learn from its model.

I ask unanimous consent that the following Washington Post article, "Best state in America: Vermont, for its healthy kids," be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Washington Post, June 21, 2014]

BEST STATE IN AMERICA: VERMONT, FOR ITS HEALTHY KIDS

A lifetime of good health starts in childhood. Health insurance, access to health care and regular exercise make for fit kids with long life expectancies. And nowhere in America are kids healthier than in Vermont.

Across a range of metrics, the Green Mountain State excels, according to the latest data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fewer than one in four Vermont children are overweight or obese. More than 81 percent have access to medical and dental care. Nearly 99 percent have health insurance. And one-third of all Vermont children report exercising at least 20 minutes a day.

Vermont's relatively small and prosperous population makes it easier than in some other states for officials to reach out to potentially vulnerable children, said Cathy Hess, managing director for coverage and access at the National Academy for State Health Policy. What's more, Vermont has been a pioneer in children's health reform.

The state's Dr. Dynasaur program, created in 1989, covered tens of thousands of low-income children long before the federal Children's Health Insurance Program came into being. Congressional authors modeled the federal program in part on Vermont's plan.

Vermont policymakers have also worked for years to build partnerships between public and private institutions to promote children's health. There's the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, run through the University of Vermont; Children's Integrated Services, run through the state Department for Children and Families, which works to connect low-income families with young children to social services; and the Blueprint for Health, established in 2006 to improve health-care services and control costs.

"They're focusing on the child and the family, and not so much trying to fit the child in different bureaucratic holes," Hess said.

Other states can brag about their successes: Children in West Virginia, Missouri, Tennessee and Oklahoma report getting more exercise than their compatriots in Vermont. Kids in Utah and Colorado are less likely to be obese or overweight. And Hawaii and Massachusetts insure a greater proportion of their children.

States with higher percentages of low-income families tend to fall at the less healthy end of the spectrum, especially if those families are minorities with less access to health care. Nearly 40 percent of children in Louisiana and Mississippi are obese or overweight. Only 56 percent of children in Nevada and 59 percent in Idaho have access to medical and dental care. Just 18 percent of Utah children say they get 20 minutes of daily exercise.

Perhaps those states should study Vermont's model. The Green Mountain State is a lap ahead of the rest of the field.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

LANCE CORPORAL ADAM WOLFF

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I have the sad task of paying tribute to a fellow Iowan who has given his life in service to his country. LCpl Adam Wolff was killed while supporting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. He was 25 years old. Adam was a native of Eldon, IA, and lived in Cedar Rapids. Eldon is home to the house depicted in Grant Wood's famous painting "American Gothic," which has come to symbolize a certain indomitable American spirit. Certainly there can be no greater representation of the spirit of self-sacrifice that has preserved American liberty through the generations than patriots like Lance Corporal Wolff. We can never repay him for his sacrifice, but we as a country must remember him and all those who have given their lives in defense of freedom. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends who are feeling his loss very deeply, particularly his father Nicholas, his mother Deborah, and his siblings. We cannot begin to comprehend their loss, but they should know that Adam's service and sacrifice have earned the gratitude of an entire nation.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER TWO RANDY L. BILLINGS

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I wish to remember the life and sacrifice of a remarkable young man, Army CW2 Randy L. Billings. Randy died December 17, 2013, of injuries he sustained when his helicopter crashed in Zabul Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Randy was born September 1, 1979, in Poteau, OK, and later moved to Heavener, OK. After graduating Heavener High School in 1997, he joined the military and served our country for 16 years.

While attending flight school to Rucker, AL, Randy met his wife Ashley. Bonding through a mutual enjoyment of the outdoors, they were married in 2008.

In September 2009, Randy transferred to the 3rd Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, and 1st Infantry Division in Fort Riley, KS.

The couple made a home in Manhattan, KS, but they planned to move south after he retired from the military and start a family.

Ashley and her family are suffering their second loss to war. Ashley Billings' brother died in a 2004 helicopter crash in Iraq. "It's much harder because we've been through this before," she said. However, they were comforted by the knowledge that Randy "loved what he did and was going to do it right."

On December 17, 2013, Randy tragically died of injuries he sustained when his Black Hawk U-60 helicopter crashed in southern Afghanistan. Five other soldiers on board were killed alongside of Randy.

His uncle Hurschel Billings said, "He really loved it. Every time he came back, he couldn't wait to go back." He served two tours in Iraq and two in Afghanistan. "He died loving what he does. Serving the country."

"He was just one of the nicest people you could possibly be around . . . He was the definition of what a hero is. He served his country well," said Amanda Morrison, Billings' cousin.

A memorial service was held January 4, 2014, at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Inverness, FL, and he was buried at Florida National Cemetery. Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin ordered flags on State property to fly at half-staff from 3-6 January, 2014.

"He's pushed me to be a better person for myself every single day of my life," his wife Ashley said. "That's the kind of person he was."

Chief Warrant Officer Billings' wife Ashley Billings resides in Manhattan, KS; mother Eva Cooper in Poteau, OK; and father Robert Billings in Heavener, OK.

Today we remember Army CW2 Randy L. Billings, a young man who loved his family and country and gave his life as a sacrifice for freedom.

COMMENDING TOM CARPER

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, on June 4, 2014, I was proud to participate with the National Energy Resource Organization in bestowing its Distinguished Service Award to Senator TOM CARPER.

NERO has, since 1978, recognized in a nonpartisan manner outstanding achievements in the energy field, particularly in the areas of public awareness regarding energy development, supply, and use.

Senator CARPER was recognized for his long career of honorable public service and his leadership. In the Senate, Senator CARPER has served as a senior member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and as one of the wisest supporters of nuclear power. Senator CARPER is the past chair of the Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee. In that role he led the effort to pass the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act with Senator George Voinovich and conducted vigorous oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It has been my privilege to work with him on this committee as his ranking member.

As we all know, Senator CARPER has been willing to work across the aisle on energy issues, and he is simply one of the best people we have in this body. He lives by the Golden Rule and sets the kind of example on a daily basis that we all admire and should seek to emulate. I wanted to share this good news with my colleagues.

COMMENDING JIM INHOFE

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam President, I was proud to participate on June 4, 2014, with the National Energy Resource Organization when it presented

its Distinguished Service Award to our colleague, Senator JIM INHOFE.

Since 1978, NERO has recognized in a nonpartisan manner outstanding achievements in the energy field, particularly in the areas of public awareness regarding energy development and use. In addition to working for 30 years in the private sector, JIM is the past mayor of Tulsa, U.S. Congressman, and has represented the State of Oklahoma in the U.S. Senate since 1994.

Senator INHOFE was recognized for his service as the lead Republican on the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee for 10 years, 4 of those years as its chairman. He has been a strong proponent of Oklahoma's energy resources and truly believes in an "all of the above" approach to American energy. Through his work on both of his committees, he has demonstrated that energy independence is not just an economic issue but a national security issue.

Senator INHOFE is well respected in the Senate on energy issues, and he has been in the forefront of every energy and environmental issue in the Senate for the last 20 years.

All of us know of Senator INHOFE's dedication to this Nation, his faith, and to a strong energy production. We also know of his giving spirit and his heart for Africa. We are amazed at all he accomplishes. Every day he gives his total and relentless effort towards making America a better place.

I wanted to share this good news with our colleagues.

FOREIGN DUMPING

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I wish to speak about the importance of a level playing field for Minnesotan miners and American steel. My State's iron ore mines and the thousands of Minnesota jobs they support are the backbone of the Iron Range. It started in the days when miners like my grandfather worked in the underground mines with picks and shovels and continues today in open-pit mines with giant electric shovels and haul trucks.

Through the generations, these Minnesotans have earned a reputation for possessing a strong work ethic. They have proven that our miners on the range can compete with anybody in the world on a level playing field. Unfortunately, that fairness is being compromised by foreign trading practices that are putting steelworker jobs in jeopardy.

The U.S. Department of Commerce is currently investigating the trading practices of countries that are dumping steel products in the U.S. market. This flood of foreign oil country tubular—OCTG—goods is causing our Nation's steel industry to lose sales and market to underpriced foreign competitors. An example is South Korea, which is the world's largest steel industry but has no domestic OCTG market. The result is Korean producers exporting more to the United States, creating a drop in the price of steel.

While the U.S. demand for OCTG products is increasing, American producers are not seeing the benefits. In fact, they are losing sales to foreign competitors, with imports of OCTG doubling since 2008 and increased by 61 percent this year compared to the previous year. This is already having an impact in American facilities with reduced hours and the threat of layoffs for workers.

Dumping of steel products has nationwide economic implications. The OCTG steel produced for the U.S. energy market accounts for approximately 10 percent of domestic steel production. U.S. OCTG producers directly employ nearly 8,000 workers across the country, and every one of those jobs in turn supports another 7 jobs in the supply chain. Here in Minnesota, where the steelmaking process begins, there are more than 10,000 high-quality, steel-related jobs.

That is why I recently joined 58 of my colleagues in sending a bipartisan letter to the Secretary of Commerce expressing concern at the antidumping investigation of OCTG imports from South Korea. The letter asks the administration to more closely examine these imports for any misrepresentations in origin and nature of the products and to take action against any unfair dumping practices.

We all know our industries need to be competitive—but they also need to be competing on fair terms. It is critical that our trade laws serve as the last line of defense for American companies and workers. I will continue fighting to ensure that we have a level playing field for this Minnesota industry vital to the economic prosperity of our State.

PENNSYLVANIA'S ACA MARKETPLACE

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I wish to speak about encouraging news from Pennsylvania. A June 17 article from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette details how Pennsylvania's health insurance marketplace, established through the Affordable Care Act, is working as intended for enrollees. I would like to enter this article into the RECORD as evidence of how the Affordable Care Act is expanding access to health insurance, in Pennsylvania and throughout our Nation. I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, June 17, 2014]

PA. HEALTH MARKETPLACE 'WORKING' FOR ENROLLEES

68% HAD PREMIUMS OF \$100 OR LESS: REPORT

(By Steve Twedt)

Pennsylvanians who selected midrange coverage "silver" plans in the new private health insurance marketplace created as part of the federal Affordable Care Act paid an average monthly premium of \$60 with tax

credits, according to a new report by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Overall for all four plans—bronze, silver, gold and platinum—68 percent of enrollees had premiums of \$100 or less after factoring in tax credits and 47 percent found plans with premiums of \$50 a month or less, the report said.

"What we're finding is that the marketplace is working for Pennsylvanians," said HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell in a release. "Consumers have more choices, and they're paying less for their premiums."

More than 300,000 Pennsylvanians have signed up for a marketplace health plan since enrollment began Oct. 1. Nationally, the number of enrollees has surpassed 8 million who HHS says have collectively saved nearly \$1.2 billion in premiums from what insurers had originally sought.

The exchanges are an integral part of the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, designed to give people, and particularly the uninsured, access to low-cost health insurance.

The tax credits for lower income enrollees are a major factor in plan affordability, as the HHS report said; Pennsylvanians who were eligible for tax credits saw their monthly premiums decrease by 74 percent, from \$330 to \$84.

Information about the tax credits, including eligibility requirements, can be found at the IRS website: www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/Questions-and-Answers-on-the-Premium-Tax-Credit.

LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL ANNIVERSARY

Mr. TOOMEY. Madam President, I wish to recognize Little League International on its 75th anniversary. Little League International was founded in Williamsport, PA, in 1939 by Carl Stotz as a means for area youth to learn the sport at a time when they were considered too young to play organized baseball. The basic goal of Little League was, and remains, to introduce children to a game that teaches its set of values, including courage, character and loyalty, that will guide them throughout their lives. Congress recognized the valuable role Little League has played in America's communities when it unanimously granted Little League a Federal charter on July 16, 1964. That charter was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson the very next day.

Over the course of its 75 years, Little League Baseball has become the world's largest organized youth sports program, growing from 3 teams in 1939 to nearly 200,000 teams located in all 50 States and more than 80 countries worldwide. Each year, more than 2.4 million children participate in Little League Baseball in various divisions, including baseball, softball, and a challenger division for physically and developmentally challenged children. Some notable Little League alumni include former U.S. President George W. Bush, two Vice Presidents, numerous U.S. Senators and Representatives, two Nobel Prize laureates, and a Medal of Honor recipient. Also, several professional athletes and Hall of Fame baseball players began their journey in Little League. In keeping with the tradition of our national pastime, thousands