

Senate, from the men and women responsible for maintaining these hallowed halls to the most senior Senators, have been on the receiving end of her bright smile and cheerful greetings. Three million annual visitors and thousands of staffers are unknowing beneficiaries of years of work she contributed quietly behind the scenes, playing a pivotal role in the construction of Capitol Visitor Center.

So what is Nancy going to do now? She is excited about joining the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, where she will contribute her considerable skills to conservation efforts across the country.

While I wish her continued success in her new job, I have a suspicion her future also will involve a certain baseball team not too far from here, the Washington Nationals. Nancy is a fourth generation Washingtonian, and she is all in for the Nats. I hope Bryce Harper and Jayson Werth understand that they will have to up their game. Because Nancy will be there, coaching them from the stands.

It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Nancy for her long career in the Senate and celebrating the many contributions she has made here. Her extraordinary work will be remembered by many. Thank you, Nancy Olkewicz.

UKRAINE

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, the world was united in horror at the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 over Ukraine. Subsequent events have only intensified that horror, as we have learned the airliner and its nearly 300 passengers and crew were shot out of the sky by a sophisticated missile and radar system, a system operated from territory that rebels occupy in eastern Ukraine. We do not know if Russia played any direct role in downing the jetliner, but we do know that Russia supplied the equipment, and that it fomented the unlawful insurrection that led to this horrific event.

The world has been unified in its condemnation of this atrocity. There is strengthened support, both in the United States and among our allies, for stronger action to confront Russian aggression, restore stability in Ukraine, reassure our friends in the region, and allow the Ukrainian people a future they choose, rather than one dictated from Moscow. I commend President Obama's action this week to lead a coalition that has further strengthened sanctions against Russia and those who seek to destabilize Ukraine.

But we need to do more. We need to do more because so far, every time President Putin has had the opportunity to veer off his destructive course, he has chosen instead obfuscation, denial and further aggression. The United States has already provided some nonlethal military support to Ukraine. But I believe it is time for us and our allies to intensify that sup-

port, and to help Ukraine exercise sovereignty and maintain its territorial integrity while dissuading Russia from further intervening.

The Ukrainian military has achieved important successes in recent weeks against the rebels who would dismantle Ukraine, significantly shrinking rebel-controlled territory. Left on its own, it appears the Ukrainian government will be able to reassert control over eastern Ukraine. But this job has been more difficult because of the backing of Russia for the rebels, including its provision of heavy weapons. It will become all but impossible if Russia decided to cross the border with its own troops. We should take additional steps to help Ukraine reclaim sovereignty in eastern Ukraine and try to deter Russia from crossing the border.

As part of this effort we should provide Ukraine with defensive weapons—such as anti-tank weapons—that can help Ukraine reclaim its territory and deter Russian aggression, without being needlessly provocative to the Russians. These are defensive weapons, not provocative weapons.

There is a clear path out of this violence, violence whose impact we now tragically know is not limited to Ukraine's borders. Russia can end its backing for rebels whose fighting capabilities are wholly dependent on Russian support. Russia can join the world in calling on those rebels to participate in the Ukrainian's government's good-faith efforts to resolve political disputes by peaceful means. Russia can allow Ukraine to exercise sovereignty over territory it lawfully controls.

Russia can choose that path. But we may not know its choice until it is too late. We should provide the military assistance that can help Ukraine defend itself, reclaim its sovereign territory and hopefully deter further Russian intervention.

CLOSING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LOOPHOLES

Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, studies have estimated that over one in three American women will face some form of domestic abuse in their lifetime, and that when guns are present during incidents of domestic violence, the risk of homicide escalates over 500 percent.

As the statistics suggest, the combination of domestic violence and firearms can lead to horrific tragedies. Like in May 2014, when Lori Jackson of Oxford, CT filed for a restraining order against her abusive, estranged husband. The court granted her a temporary restraining order while she waited 2 weeks for a hearing to obtain a permanent restraining order. In the meantime, fearful of her husband, Ms. Jackson took her twin 18-month-olds and fled. But before Ms. Jackson could obtain a permanent order, her husband found her, stormed the house where she was staying, fatally shot her and wounded her mother.

This is a tragedy that could have been prevented. The Violence Against Women Act, which Congress first passed in 1994, included a common-sense provision to prevent people subject to a permanent restraining order from buying or possessing a gun. Since 1994, this provision has saved countless lives.

But there is a critical loophole in this law: while people subject to a permanent restraining order are prohibited from having a weapon, this safeguard does not apply to those subject to a temporary restraining order. This loophole left Ms. Jackson, who had obtained a temporary restraining order against her husband and was awaiting a permanent order, perilously vulnerable in the dangerous days immediately after she left her spouse.

It is long past time to close this loophole. That is why I am a cosponsor of the Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act of 2014. This bill would prevent individuals subject to temporary restraining orders—like Ms. Jackson's husband—from buying or possessing a gun for the duration of that temporary order. It also would expand the legal definition of 'intimate partner' to include individuals who are simply dating partners.

But closing the temporary restraining order loophole is just the first step. Sadly, a patchwork of inadequate State and local resources hamstring the effectiveness of these lifesaving laws. In reality, just issuing a permanent restraining order that legally disqualifies a person from purchasing a firearm does not necessarily mean the person's name will be added to the National Instant Criminal Background Check, NICS system. Nor does it mean that law enforcement will be notified of the urgent need to remove firearms from that dangerous person's possession.

That is why I am also a cosponsor of the Domestic Violence Gun Homicide Prevention Act. This bill would establish new grants to assist States in carrying out policies that, among other things, encourage State and local courts to account for whether a domestic abuser possesses a gun that they may use against their victims and to order the recovery of those guns, when appropriate. The grants created by this bill would provide vital assistance to the law enforcement professionals we trust with the safety of our communities, and would go a long way toward better enforcement of the gun safety laws we already have on the books.

The decision to flee from an abusive partner or spouse is extraordinarily difficult and courageous. Congress should honor the people who have taken this step by passing common-sense legislation to protect those who may need to do it in the future. I urge my colleagues to move quickly to pass these urgently-needed measures.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I previously filed budgetary aggregates

and committee allocations for budget years 2014 and 2015 pursuant to section 116 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. Today, I am adjusting those levels.

Section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits, while sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act allow the Chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Senate will be considering legislation that is eligible for adjustments under the Congressional Budget Act: S. 2648, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2014, which includes \$3.571 billion in budget authority and \$2.913 billion

in outlays that is designated as emergency funding pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

Consequently, I am revising the budgetary aggregates for 2014 by a total of \$3.571 billion in budget authority and \$25 million in outlays. I am also revising the budgetary aggregates for 2015 by a total of \$2.888 billion in outlays. In addition, I am revising the budget authority and outlay allocations to the Appropriations Committee for 2014 by \$3.346 billion in nonsecurity budget authority, \$225 million in security budget authority, and \$25 million in total outlays. I am revising the outlay allocations to the appropriations committee for 2015 by \$2.888 billion.

I ask unanimous consent that the following tables detailing the changes to

the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations and the budgetary aggregates be printed in the RECORD.

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

BUDGETARY AGGREGATES—

[Pursuant to section 116 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013 and section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974]

	\$s in millions	2014	2015
Current Spending Aggregates:*			
Budget Authority		2,842,558	3,015,208
Outlays		2,819,514	3,035,686
Adjustments:			
Budget Authority		3,571	0
Outlays		25	2,888
Revised Spending Aggregates:			
Budget Authority		2,846,129	3,015,208
Outlays		2,819,539	3,038,574

*2014 current spending aggregates reflect previous adjustments made for the farm bill and unemployment insurance. 2015 current spending aggregates reflect previous adjustments made for disaster, overseas contingency operations, and terrorism risk insurance.

REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	In millions of dollars	Current Allocation/limit	Adjustments *	Adjusted Allocation/limit
Fiscal Year 2014:				
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority		605,882	225	606,107
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		504,843	3,346	508,189
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays		1,201,186	25	1,201,211
Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority		1,110,725	3,571	1,114,296

* Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	In millions of dollars	Current Allocation/limit	Adjustments *	Adjusted Allocation/limit
Fiscal Year 2015:				
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority		579,851	0	579,851
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		508,872	0	508,872
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays		1,191,903	2,888	1,194,791
Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority		1,088,723	0	1,088,723

* Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2014 ALLOCATIONS TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

	\$s in billions	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Overseas Contingency Operations	Total
S. 2648, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act 2014 *						
Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	3.571	0.000	3.571
Outlays		0.000	0.000	0.025	0.000	0.025
Total		0.000	0.000	3.571	0.000	3.571
Outlays **		0.000	0.000	0.025	0.000	0.025
Breakdown of Above Adjustments by Category						
Revised Security Category Budget Authority ***		0.000	0.000	0.225	0.000	0.225
Revised Nonsecurity Category Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	3.346	0.000	3.346
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays		0.000	0.000	0.025	0.000	0.025

* This table reflects the Congressional Budget Office estimate of S. 2648, the Emergency Appropriations Act, 2014 as introduced in the Senate on July 23, 2014.

** S. 2648 includes \$3.567 billion in total outlays from 2014–2020. Outlays total \$654 million from 2016–2020.

*** The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act includes \$225 million in function 050 (Defense) spending for Iron Dome.

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2015 ALLOCATIONS TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

	\$s in billions	Program Integrity	Disaster Relief	Emergency	Overseas Contingency Operations	Total
S. 2648, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2014 *						
Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays		0.000	0.000	2.888	0.000	2.888
Total		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays **		0.000	0.000	2.888	0.000	2.888
Breakdown of Above Adjustments by Category						
Revised Security Category Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Revised Nonsecurity Category Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays		0.000	0.000	2.888	0.000	2.888

* This table reflects the Congressional Budget Office estimate of S. 2648, the Emergency Appropriations Act, 2014 as introduced in the Senate on July 23, 2014.

** S. 2648 includes \$3.567 billion in total outlays from 2014–2020. Outlays total \$654 million from 2016–2020.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I previously filed budgetary aggregates and committee allocations for budget years 2014 and 2015 pursuant to section

116 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. In addition, earlier today, I filed revisions to those levels for S. 2648, the Emergency Supplemental Appropria-

tions Act, 2014. Those adjustments were made as a result of funding designated as emergency requirements in S. 2648 pursuant to section

251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985. Because the Senate did not pass S. 2648, I am now reversing the adjustments I filed earlier today.

Consequently, I am revising the budgetary aggregates for 2014 by a total of $-\$3.571$ billion in budget authority and $-\$25$ million in outlays. I am also revising the budgetary aggregates

for 2015 by a total of $-\$2.888$ billion in outlays. In addition, I am revising the budget authority and outlay allocations to the Appropriations Committee for 2014 by $-\$3.346$ billion in nonsecurity budget authority, $-\$225$ million in security budget authority and $-\$25$ million in total outlays. I am revising the outlay allocations to the

appropriations committee for 2015 by $-\$2.888$ billion.

I ask unanimous consent that the following tables detailing the changes to the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations and the budgetary aggregates be printed in the RECORD.

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

BUDGETARY AGGREGATES—PURSUANT TO SECTION 116 OF THE BIPARTISAN BUDGET ACT OF 2013 AND SECTION 311 OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	\$ in millions	2014	2015
Current Spending Aggregates:*			
Budget Authority		2,846,129	3,015,208
Outlays		2,819,539	3,038,574
Adjustments:**			
Budget Authority		-3,571	0
Outlays		-25	-2,888
Revised Spending Aggregates:			
Budget Authority		2,842,558	3,015,208
Outlays		2,819,514	3,035,686

*2014 current spending aggregates reflect previous adjustments made for the farm bill and unemployment insurance. 2015 current spending aggregates reflect previous adjustments made for disaster, overseas contingency operations, terrorism risk insurance, and the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

** This adjustment removes the amounts previously filed for S. 2648, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, because the bill did not pass the Senate.

REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	In millions of dollars	Current allocation/limit	Adjustments*	Adjusted allocation/limit
Fiscal Year 2014:**				
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority		606,107	-225	605,882
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		508,189	-3,346	504,843
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays		1,201,211	-25	1,201,186
Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority		1,114,296	-3,571	1,110,725

* Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

** This adjustment removes the amounts previously filed for S. 2648, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, because the bill did not pass the Senate.

REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

	In millions of dollars	Current allocation/limit	Adjustments*	Adjusted limit allocation/limit
Fiscal Year 2015:**				
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority		579,851	0	579,851
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority		508,872	0	508,872
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays		1,194,791	-2,888	1,191,903
Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority		1,088,723	0	1,088,723

* Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

** This adjustment removes the amount previously filed for S. 2648, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, because the bill did not pass the Senate.

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2014 ALLOCATIONS TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

	\$ in billions	Program integrity	Disaster relief	Emergency	Overseas contingency operations	Total
S. 2648, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2014*						
Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	-3.571	0.000	-3.571
Outlays		0.000	0.000	-0.025	0.000	-0.025
Total		0.000	0.000	-3.571	0.000	-3.571
Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	-0.025	0.000	-0.025
Outlays		0.000	0.000	-0.025	0.000	-0.025
Breakdown of Above Adjustments by Category						
Revised Security Category Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	-0.225	0.000	-0.225
Revised Nonsecurity Category Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	-3.346	0.000	-3.346
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays		0.000	0.000	-0.025	0.000	-0.025

* The table reflects the adjustment to remove the amounts previously filed for S. 2648, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, because the bill did not pass the Senate.

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2015 ALLOCATIONS TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT

	\$ in billions	Program integrity	Disaster relief	Emergency	Overseas contingency operations	Total
S. 2648, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2014*						
Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays		0.000	0.000	-2.888	0.000	-2.888
Total		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Outlays		0.000	0.000	-2.888	0.000	-2.888
Breakdown of Above Adjustments by Category						
Revised Security Category Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Revised Nonsecurity Category Budget Authority		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays		0.000	0.000	-2.888	0.000	-2.888

* The table reflects the adjustment to remove the amounts previously filed for S. 2648, the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act, because the bill did not pass the Senate.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EVERETT ALVAREZ'S CAPTIVITY IN VIETNAM

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, today I honor a superb leader, intrepid warrior, and outstanding role model. Fifty years ago on August 4, then-LTJG Everett "Ev" Alvarez, was shot down in his A-4 Skyhawk during a bombing mission in the Gulf of Tonkin. Everett was the first U.S. pilot shot down over North Vietnam and served 8½ years—the second-longest tenure of any U.S. prisoner of war. Over the years, hundreds of other American prisoners joined him in Hoa Lo prison and similar detention centers around the country. Despite starvation and other significant health challenges, Everett had the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual strength to endure the harshest conditions imaginable until his release on February 12, 1973.

Mr. Alvarez went on to complete a 20-year career in the Navy, retiring as a Commander in 1980. His service to our Nation, however, did not end there. Upon retirement, Everett earned a law degree and in 1981 was appointed by President Reagan to be the Deputy Director of the Peace Corps. Quickly proving his ability to lead outside of the military, a year later President Reagan nominated him in 1982 to be the Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, serving 6 years. Everett went on to serve on several boards, including the board of regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, is a lifetime member on the board of fellows of his alma mater, Santa Clara University, and earlier this year was asked by Secretary Hagel to be a member of the Vietnam War Commemoration Advisory Council.

His performance in and out of uniform has been widely recognized, to include the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, two Bronze Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, as well as the Lone Sailor Award, an honor bestowed to sea service veterans for exceptional civilian leadership. Everett has made an indelible impact on his fellow prisoners, service members, and organizations he has been associated with over his lifetime. He is the co-author of two seminal works on the experience of living in captivity—"Chained Eagle" and "Code of Conduct."

Committing a lifetime of service to our Nation, Ev personifies the indomitable American spirit and is a shining example of strength through adversity. In an interview he once famously said, "Together we stepped into the dungeons and we faced the dragon, and we came out of it." On this occasion, I believe it is fitting to recognize Everett Alvarez's 50 years of distinguished service to our Nation.

U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE
ANNIVERSARY

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, today, July 31, 2014, marks the 225th

anniversary of the signing by President George Washington of legislation establishing the U.S. Customs Service, the oldest legacy agency of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, currently within the Department of Homeland Security. The U.S. Customs Service was created by the 5th Act of the 1st Congress.

The U.S. Customs Service placed controls on imports and exports and on shipping and trade, which were deemed essential by the founders of the Republic, and would have been impossible without implementation by an honest, resourceful, and efficient Customs Service. The original Customs collectors, the Customs houses, and today's CBP officers have stood for 225 years as the embodiment of Federal authority at our ports of entry.

After 225 years, the ever more complex demands of our economy and our society require CBP officers to remain alert and ready to perform on short notice a widening variety of tasks. Today's dedicated CBP personnel, and their predecessor Customs inspectors, have been the first line of defense against the entry into the United States of terrorists, terrorist weapons, illicit drugs and other contraband goods, while protecting the economic well-being of the Nation, and supporting American jobs, by facilitating legitimate trade and travel, and protecting this country's intellectual property rights.

ISRAEL

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I come to the floor today in support of the State of Israel, our closest and most critical ally in the Middle East. The escalating violence between Israel and Hamas is extremely disheartening. At this time of extreme instability and conflict in the region, the clear and unyielding support of the United States for Israel is more critical than ever. While we all hope for a peaceful ceasefire and a return to negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, we cannot ignore the current situation.

For weeks now, Israel has been responding to Hamas militants in Gaza whose clear mission is to exact a civilian death toll. It is an often-used tactic of Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization, to launch rockets into Israel at civilian targets. In doing so, they not only harm innocent Israelis but put Palestinian civilians in danger as well. Hamas's exposure of their own population to danger is made worse when they use civilians in Gaza as human shields. When Hamas used cement for the construction of tunnels to attack and kidnap civilians instead of using it for the construction of peaceful infrastructure projects, they literally chose the path of conflict over the path of peace. Israel has the undeniable right to defend itself against these threats to their civilians, and we must stand by our friend and help protect innocent lives in any way we can.

One thing we can do to continue to support Israel is to continue to support the Iron Dome missile defense system. The United States has provided financial support for this state-of-the-art defense system for years, and I, and many of my colleagues from both parties have been strong and continual supporters since its inception. The technology is extraordinarily effective at stopping rockets fired at civilian targets in Israel from Gaza; according to some estimates, it has intercepted about 90 percent of rockets which otherwise could have hit major population centers in Israel. Ultimately, the Iron Dome protects innocent lives, and I shudder to think of what this conflict's death toll in Israel might be without it. I am reassured that the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee doubled the administration's funding request for the Iron Dome recently, and I commend my colleagues for this tangible show of support for Israel.

I, along with many of my colleagues, am deeply committed to the security of Israel, and I am saddened by the loss of civilian lives on both sides of the current conflict. Too much innocent blood has been shed already.

CHINESE DRYWALL

Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I wish to join my colleague, Senator NELSON, in expressing frustration over the Chinese Government's failure to remedy the damages to homeowners, businesses, and contractors caused by Chinese drywall companies.

Beginning some 10 years ago, drywall manufactured by Chinese companies was imported to the United States. A significant amount of the imported Chinese drywall proved to be defective. In my State, this drywall was mostly used in homes and businesses that had suffered substantial damages from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In total, there were thousands of cases in the gulf coast area.

The drywall emitted sulfur gases, which caused physical damage to the homes and significant health problems for the residents. The sulfur gas severely corroded metals found in plumbing, electrical wiring, air-conditioning systems, and household appliances. Health issues included skin irritation, persistent cough, bloody noses, and asthma attacks. For many families who lived through these hurricanes, having to completely rebuild a home again was yet another obstacle to their recovery.

I have maintained that the Consumer Product Safety Commission should have served as the first line of defense in preventing this inferior product from entering the U.S. market. Nevertheless, manufacturers, no matter where they are located, have a responsibility to consumers harmed by defective products.

The homeowners sought relief in court, and most of the cases were consolidated in the Eastern District of