

Of course, as I said last month before the House vote, this bill is not perfect. Anyone who is determined to vote no could likely dig through the bill and find a reason to do so. I have my own thoughts as to how I would like to improve the bill.

But, let's be honest. While I have only been in the Senate for 38 years or so, I don't remember voting on many perfect bills, particularly not on a subject matter this complex and under a divided government. So, while I understand the impulse of some who may want to hold out for a better, more ideal solution to the SGR problem, I think it would be a grave mistake to pass up this bipartisan opportunity we have before us now.

As I see it, we have two options. We can hold out for a better bill, one that satisfies every demand and subject ourselves to many more years of the last-minute, time-consuming SGR patches that are loathed by everyone in Congress and everyone in the health care industry or we can pass the bipartisan, bicameral bill we have before us now, fixing the SGR problem once and for all and setting the stage for future entitlement reform.

It should be pretty clear where I stand. This is a good bill, and it is coming at the right time.

I want to once again commend the leaders in the House from both parties who worked so hard to reach a deal on this legislation and to pass it with such an overwhelming consensus. I know it was not easy.

It is now up to us here in the Senate. Let's get this done. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting the SGR bill.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### HONDURAS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, over the course of the Easter recess, I went to meet with the President of Honduras, President Hernandez, about the limited albeit progress his country is making against crime, as well as all the drugs that are coming in. I had gone to Honduras with our four-star Marine general, General Kelly, the Commander of United States Southern Command.

Between the U.S. military and the Coast Guard, we have been successful—as a matter of fact, I even went on some simulated drug interdictions out in the Caribbean off of Key West. They showed me how one Coast Guard fast boat can interdict a drug smuggler's fast boat, and basically they shoot out the engines. They can do that from another fast boat or they can do that from a helicopter.

That has had an effect. There are less drugs coming out of South America going into Honduras, which is one of the three Central American countries that had become so prime for the drug trade.

They arrive in big shipments into Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala. Then they break them down into much smaller packets and go through this very efficient distribution system that goes north through the rest of Central America, into Mexico, and from there to the United States.

It is hard to catch them when there are the much smaller packets of cocaine going north. Therefore, we have really made an effort to assist the three Central American countries: Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

Needless to say, there is a lot of corruption in the governments and the local police of all of those three countries. As a result, the drug lords find it fairly easy pickings to buy off people and buy off judges, so President Hernandez came into office wanting to really make a difference.

He started doing some shows of force. He has worked with General Kelly on this issue, but the fact is it is still a very violent country, with not only the drug trade but also human trafficking, but the trends are in the right direction.

One year ago, Honduras was the murder capital of the world. It was about 86 murders per 100,000 of population. They have cut that number down to about 66 per 100,000 of population—still very high, but the trend is in the right direction.

I commend President Hernandez, and I commend the First Lady of the country. They have been trying to help their country with its economy so the extreme poverty that is so evident in that part of the world is not a caldron bubbling that is ripe for corruption and for paying off people to transport the drugs.

In addition, of course there is the human trafficking. There is part of it for the sex slaves, and that is a trade where often parents are sending their children north—thinking they will have a better life—and the young girls are just brutally treated and ultimately forced into prostitution. But part of it is also, because of the poverty, the hopelessness of the parents that their children have no future. They are willing to turn—after paying thousands and thousands of dollars to a human trafficker—their children over to a coyote to transport those children to the north.

Some of them don't make it, and it is true some of the reforms that the Hernandez government have been putting in place have lessened the migration of these young children, but there is a lot more to do. That is where I would commend the Senate to take a look at the administration's request for Central America. It has a name, something such as Alliance for Progress. It is about a \$1 billion appropriations re-

quest that will help with the economic development and the medical care in that very poor region of the world. If the Congress will approve that request, I think we will continue to see the fruits of our labors—a very positive outcome.

As long as there is such a difference between the economic elites and the very poor—a huge majority who are very poor—we are always going to have those problems, but at least we are seeing the steps in the right direction.

While I was there, our Ambassador Nealon asked me in the assembled press to announce that in another week the Naval Hospital ship the Comfort will be anchoring off the coast of Honduras. For 1 week it will offer the medical services of Navy doctors, nurses, and a whole host of private doctors and nurses from this country who are volunteering their time to go to Honduras and help with the medical attention that is so desperately needed in that part of the world.

I commend to the Senate that we seriously consider favorably the request of the administration for this \$1 billion into Central America. At the end of the day, it is going to lessen the drug trade going north through those countries and stop the family deprivation—lessen the family deprivation—of which they would dare risk their children to be sent north with a coyote.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNIZING CLEVELAND, OHIO

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, my home of Cleveland, OH, is one of our Nation's historic great centers of industry. Our manufacturing base helped to build our country's infrastructure to win World War II and to spur our economy to new heights in the 21st century. We are not only home to great makers, we are home to great creators as well.

We are the home of rock and roll—the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is in downtown Cleveland—great athletes and authors, people such as Jesse Owens and Toni Morrison, and we are home to great art. Cleveland is the home to world-renowned Cleveland Orchestra, Playhouse Square, Karam House, the NASA-designated Great Lakes Science Center, and one of the largest and best art museums not just in the United States but in the world, the Cleveland Museum of Art.

In the early 1900s, Midwest cities saw a cultural explosion. Cities were prospering. Government and business leaders alike sought to harness that new wealth to build livable, world-class cities. Museums were established across

the Midwest. That is why cities such as Youngstown, Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati, Cleveland—cities that may not have been the Nation's largest, especially when you look at Dayton, Youngstown, and Toledo, but cities that were prosperous—created great products, created great wealth, and made huge contributions to start these cultural centers.

Ohio is one of the leading States in the Nation as far as locations of good art museums in pretty much all of our major cities. Art museums were status symbols. In many ways, they were the sports arenas of the early 20th century.

It was in this climate that the Cleveland Museum of Art was established 99 years ago, opening in June 1916. We mark, last year and the next couple of years, the 100th anniversary of the Cleveland City Club and the 100th anniversary of the Cleveland Orchestra also. So much happened in that decade in Cleveland, OH, and cities like it across the country.

The original marble neoclassic building was an instant icon, a signal to the world that Cleveland would take its place as a world-class city and a center for the arts. And 100 years later, the Cleveland Museum of Art is thriving. It has a permanent collection that is world-renowned and possesses a deep commitment to the local community.

Under the leadership of Director William Griswold and Steven Kestner, chair of the board of trustees, the museum is expanding in every direction, working to engage the community and using new technology to educate visitors. I had the privilege of visiting the art museum just in the last week or so, talking with Dr. Griswold, and looking at the new Africa exhibit that is on tour that has been collected for Cleveland, and I got a chance to see a good bit of this beautiful museum. I have been many times. Each time I go, I come away with an even greater appreciation for the institution, the art, the curators, the collectors, and the people who work there. Dr. Griswold shared with me that day he was appointed as director, he was with some European friends who told him the Cleveland Museum of Art was their favorite art museum in the entire world.

The museum recently completed a \$350 million expansion and renovation that will better integrate the museum with the surrounding community. It has transformed the museum's spaces and has prepared this institution to inspire and educate Ohioans for the next 100 years. It beckons young people and students—many low-income students in the immediate area, within a few square miles around the museum—to come visit and learn about our cultural heritage and look to the future.

When I met with Dr. Griswold—let me back up for a moment. This capital improvement was the largest capital improvement of any museum in Ohio history and supported some 1,100 local jobs. The project injected more than \$360 million directly into our State's

economy. The impact will be felt for years to come.

As it approaches its centennial celebration next year, the Cleveland Museum of Art will continue to attract visitors from Cuyahoga County, from northeast Ohio, and from around the world. In 2013, 600,000 people visited that museum. More than one-third of them were from outside of Ohio. More than half a million visitors were responsible for \$80 million in consumer spending in the city.

The museum's first director, Frederick Allen Whiting, believed the museum should serve not as an ivory tower but as an educational institution engaged in the community. He wanted to bring art to people, not just people into the museum.

The museum established its first education department. In 1919, they held the first annual exhibition of Cleveland artists and craftsmen. It became known as the May Show and showcased local artists for the next 73 years. Dr. Griswold continues that tradition of community engagement.

When I met with him, he told me that leaders of cultural institutions have a responsibility to participate in my city's transformation. He is committed and the museum's staff is committed to making our city a better place. They have elevated the museum's education and interpretation department and are committed to the value of interpretive excellence. Education in the museum is aimed at a general audience, not just art buffs and historians.

Parenthetically, my sister-in-law teaches in the art history department at Case Western Reserve University. Catherine talks to me about how integrated Case is in the art history department with that museum. It is a classroom for students. It is a classroom for the whole community beyond Case.

Studies show that a high concentration of the arts in communities leads to higher civic engagement. Students who take art classes, play musical instruments, take dance lessons generally do better in school.

Dr. Griswold and his team are in the forefront of the use of technology to educate and to connect visitors with the museum's collections. The Cleveland Art Museum is also home to the country's largest multitouch screen, a collection wall. This huge, interactive wall stands at 40 square feet and features more than 4,100 works of art from the museum's collection.

To get a feel for the reach and the breadth of a museum of this stature in one of our Nation's great cities, the museum has 20 curators on staff. It recruits for these positions around the world.

In Cleveland, we have the Cleveland Institute of Art, and we have great universities. However, when it comes time to look for a new curator, the Cleveland Art Museum looks worldwide.

The museum's collection includes 45,000 objects and spans nearly 6,000

years of history. This February, the museum's "Senufo: Art and Identity in West Africa" special exhibit opened after 5 years of work by curators. It features 170 objects from more than 60 collections around the world.

We know that strong communities require strong cultural institutions. From the Cleveland Institute of Music, to the Fine Arts Garden, to the Botanical Garden, to the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland continues to cultivate the vibrant arts community that enriches our city and enriches our State.

Thanks to the art museum, the Cleveland Museum of Art, and Dr. Griswold, who is relatively still new on the job, for their contributions to our community.

#### TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY AND THE TRANS-PACIFIC PART- NERSHIP

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, let me start with a story. More than 15 years ago, a friend and I—I met with friends, and I flew to South Texas at my own expense. I wanted to see how the North American Free Trade Agreement was working.

During my first year in Congress 20-plus years ago, in the House of Representatives, I helped to lead the opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement. I stood up to a President of my own party, President Clinton, who I think was wrong on the North American Free Trade Agreement. Since then, I disagreed with President Bush—a President not of my party—on his trade policy.

I wanted to see, 4, 5 years after NAFTA was implemented, what it looked like, what went on along the U.S.-Mexican border. As I said, at my own expense I rented a car with a couple friends and went to Mexico. Here is what I found. I walked into a neighborhood where thousands of workers lived, workers who were working in formerly U.S. plants that, because of NAFTA, had crossed the river and were relocated in Mexico in some areas called maquiladoras. These were American plants that relocated to Mexico, producing with very low-income workers, no environmental labor standards, and selling those products back into the United States. It is a 20th-century, 21st-century way of doing business for far too many companies. Unknown in human history, to my knowledge, have so many companies, as they have in the United States, incorporated their business plans where they shut down production in Sandusky or Mansfield, OH, and move production to Wuhan or Shiyan, China, and sell those products back into the United States.

I wanted to see what it looked like. I walked through this neighborhood where thousands of workers lived in very abject, poor conditions. These were workers working for in most cases American companies south of the border in Mexico, for very low wages.