

For these and many other reasons, I cannot support the so-called FREEDOM Act. While I would prefer to pass a long-term extension of our current authorities, I will support a short-term extension to facilitate the search for a long-term solution. I urge my colleagues in both Houses to support this effort.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES E. BULLOCK

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to an honored Kentuckian, Mr. Charles E. Bullock. Mr. Bullock is a veteran of World War II who enlisted in the Army after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. But Mr. Bullock was a student at the old Hazel Green High School at the time. He missed his senior year because he was stationed in Europe fighting the Nazis. Mr. Bullock had gone from studying history to making it.

More than 70 years after putting on his country's uniform, Mr. Bullock received his high school diploma at long last from the Laurel County Board of Education at a meeting of that organization. This proud veteran and recipient of the Bronze Star received a warm, heartfelt round of applause from the assembled audience twice—once upon receiving his diploma, and again as he left the room.

I want to congratulate Mr. Bullock, 88, on receiving his diploma, and I thank him for his service to our Nation in uniform. This country owes him a debt that can never be truly repaid, for his valiant fight against the Axis Powers during World War II. It is appropriate as we approach Memorial Day that every American reflect on the freedoms we cherish and that Mr. Bullock fought to defend. I know my colleagues join me when I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Charles E. Bullock in praise of his service.

An article detailing Mr. Bullock's receipt of his high school diploma appeared in the area newspaper the Sentinel-Echo. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

WORLD WAR II VETERAN RECEIVES HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA—BULLOCK JOINED ARMY IN WAKE OF PEARL HARBOR ATTACK

(By R. Scott Belzer)

Charles E. Bullock, 88, didn't know he would not finish his senior year of high school at Hazel Green in 1942. He also didn't know he would have to wait more than 70 years to receive his high school diploma.

Bullock—a World War II veteran—was honored on Monday at the bi-weekly meeting of the Laurel County Board of Education with an official Laurel County high school diploma, 73 years after enlistment and deployment cut his high school career short.

"After the attack on December 7, 1941, many young men enlisted in the armed services to soldier on behalf of their country," said Dr. Doug Bennett, superintendent of

Laurel County Schools. "Some of the young men were high school students aged 17 or 18 who left their high school studies before graduation in order to enlist. We're pleased to have one of those young men with us this evening."

Bennett went on to laud Bullock's choice to leave Hazel Green High School to fight in World War II, stating that Bullock chose to be a part of history rather than study it.

"He was called to fight and protect the freedoms we enjoy today," Bennett said. "No longer was he reading about history but became part of making history on the front lines."

Bennett said that Bullock represented the best and highest ideals of Laurel County and was glad to be a part of his formal recognition.

"I appreciate what you men have done," Bullock said. "They took me out my senior year of Hazel Green High School because I wasn't in my second semester. They took six of us out of the high school and put us in the army. Three months later we were fighting in Belgium, France and Germany."

Bullock said he stayed in the army until the war was over in 1945. He was awarded a Bronze Star, a medal awarded for acts of heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service within a combat zone. The medal, unfortunately, was another thing he had to wait for.

"I never got it when I came out," said Bullock. "The dischargers said 'You can wait and get your medals, it'll only take 15 days,' and I said, 'I'm going home.' About 70 years later I got so mad about some things going on and went before Congressman Hal Rogers and he said he'd help me and he did."

School board member Joe Schenkenfelder quoted Ronald Reagan in 1983 to end the presentation.

"I've been thinking about this all day and I finally found a quote—so often we don't know why we recognize our veterans or why we send men and women out to fight for our country," said Schenkenfelder. "I thought this was very fitting: 'Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed down for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.'"

RECOGNIZING THE ADVOCATE-MESSENGER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, one of my home State's great newspapers, the Advocate-Messenger, is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year, and I want to congratulate the staff and publishers of this venerable institution that is published out of Danville, Ky.

The newspaper that would become the Advocate-Messenger was first published on June 24, 1865, as The Kentucky Advocate. Created by James L. Marrs, it was guided to considerable success by a trio of editors: G.W. Doneghy, W. Vernon Richardson, and W.O. McIntyre. The paper became a daily in 1911 and a member of the Associated Press in 1914.

In the meantime, a local merchant named Hubert McGoodwin founded the Danville Messenger in 1910 as a competitor of the Kentucky Advocate. This paper was purchased in 1918 by J. Curtis Alcock, an experienced editor and

publisher, and he guided The Danville Messenger to considerable success in the ensuing decades while also serving as secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Press Association from 1911 to 1942.

In 1940, the two newspapers merged to become the Advocate-Messenger and published Monday through Friday under that name. The Kentucky Advocate became a Saturday afternoon paper for a decade before switching to a Sunday-only paper in 1950, continuing to this day.

Many able hands have steered the ship of the Advocate-Messenger over the years. Enos Swain, formerly the director of Centre College's public relations, became the Advocate-Messenger's editor in 1944 and served the longest tenure of any editor, 34 years. In 1977 current owner Schurz Communications bought the paper, and Mary Schurz became the editor and publisher in 1978 upon Enos Swain's retirement.

From 2006 to 2014, Scott Schurz, Jr., served as editor and publisher, and in July 2014, Larry Hensley was named president and publisher, posts he continues to fill today. John Nelson is the executive editor.

Under the supervision of Mr. Hensley, the Advocate-Messenger enjoys a healthy circulation throughout southcentral Kentucky, with distribution primarily in Boyle, Lincoln, Casey, Mercer, and Garrard counties. Danville benefits from being recognized by Time magazine as one of 10 successful Main Street communities in the country and is the home of Centre College, one of the top liberal arts colleges in the region. I can attest to my colleagues that Danville is a wonderful place, and I believe the Advocate-Messenger truly has its finger on the pulse of the region.

A strong and vigorous free press being vital to the freedoms of our country, I wish to recognize the Advocate-Messenger as a newspaper that takes its dedication to journalism and to serving the people of its community seriously. One hundred and fifty years in publication is quite an accomplishment that few newspapers can claim, and I know my colleagues join me when I say congratulations to the Advocate-Messenger on the occasion of its sesquicentennial and best wishes for many more years of publication to come. And congratulations to the newspaper's president and publisher, Larry Hensley, and its executive editor, John Nelson.

FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week I was pleased to be joined by my Republican colleague from Louisiana, Senator BILL CASSIDY, to introduce the Foreign Medical School Accountability Fairness Act.

I appreciate Senator CASSIDY's leadership on this issue and his willingness to work across the aisle. We were joined across the Capitol by Representatives MICHAEL BURGESS and ELIJAH

CUMMINGS, who introduced a House companion bill today.

This bipartisan, common-sense bill fixes a loophole in Federal law used by for-profit medical schools in the Caribbean to gain access to Federal education dollars without meeting the same requirements as other foreign medical schools.

Under current law, a small number of medical schools—about six, four of which are for-profits—are exempt from meeting the same requirements to qualify for Title IV funding that all other medical schools outside of the U.S. and Canada must meet.

This loophole allows these schools to enroll large percentages of American students—which means access to more federal dollars.

The biggest of these schools are for-profits—St. George's, Ross, and American University of the Caribbean whose enrollments of Americans are 91 percent, 83 percent, and 86 percent respectively. Other schools are prohibited from having U.S. citizens or U.S. permanent residents make up more than 40 percent of enrollment.

These for-profit schools have turned the idea of being a foreign school on its head—they are located outside of the U.S., but have majority-American enrollments.

They don't have to meet the same high standards U.S. medical schools must meet, but also don't have to meet the same requirements as schools located outside of the U.S. to access hundreds of millions of dollars of federal funding. It's a pretty good deal for them.

In fact in 2012, the three schools I mentioned earlier—St. George's and Ross and American University of the Caribbean, both owned by DeVry, took in more than \$450 million from the federal government—from American taxpayers. That amounted to more than two-thirds of all Title IV funding that went to all foreign medical schools.

To sum up—three schools, 2/3 of the Federal funding, exempt from the law.

Not only are these three schools exempt from the enrollment requirement, but they don't have to meet a minimum standard of success—having 75 percent of their students pass the U.S. board exams—a requirement for any of its students to actually practice medicine in the United States.

The University of Sydney, with its dozen or so American students, has to meet this standard in order to receive Title IV dollars. But DeVry's Ross University, with 1,000 or more American students, does not.

It doesn't seem right to the Department of Education, which says there is no rationale for continuing the exemption. And it doesn't seem right to me either.

Especially when you consider what students are getting for this Federal investment—more debt, higher rates of attrition, and lower residency match rates than U.S. medical schools. Translation: More debt and less chance of becoming a doctor.

In September 2013, an article in Bloomberg by Janet Lorin entitled "DeVry Lures Medical School Rejects as Taxpayers Fund Debt" shined a bright light on the poor student outcomes of these schools.

It is no secret that for-profit foreign medical schools prey on students who have been rejected by traditional U.S. medical schools. They promise to fulfill the unrequited dreams for students who want to be doctors, but for one reason or another, did not make the cut in the U.S.

On average, scores on the MCAT, the test required to enter medical school, of students attending these offshore for-profit schools are lower than those of students who are admitted to medical schools in the U.S. In 2012, students at U.S. medical schools scored an average of 31 out of 45 on the MCAT while students at DeVry's Ross medical school scored an average of 24.

The attrition rate at U.S. medical schools averaged 3 percent for the class beginning in 2009 while rates at for-profit foreign medical schools can be up to 26 percent or higher. More than a quarter of the students at some of these schools drop out.

On average, students at for-profit medical schools operating outside of the United States and Canada amass more student debt than those at medical schools in the United States. For example, graduates of the American University of the Caribbean have a median of \$309,000 in Federal student debt versus \$180,000 for graduates of U.S. medical schools.

To add insult to injury, these foreign-trained graduates are on average less competitive candidates for coveted U.S. residency positions. In 2015, residency match rates for foreign-trained graduates averaged 53 percent compared to 94 percent for graduates of medical schools in the United States. They are even less likely to land a residency position the second time around.

According to the Bloomberg article I referenced earlier, one graduate of St. George's University, Michael Uva, amassed almost \$400,000 in medical school loans, but failed to land a residency spot twice. Michael was forced to work at a blood donation clinic earning \$30 an hour instead. Although he sacrificed years of his life training for it, without completing a residency, he will never get to practice medicine and this \$400,000 debt will likely follow him throughout his life.

Congress has failed taxpayers and students by subsidizing these Caribbean schools with billions in Federal dollars for years without adequate accountability and oversight.

This bill takes a first step at addressing that failure—by ensuring these Caribbean schools must meet the same standards other schools outside of the United States and Canada must meet.

This bill should send a message to those schools down in the sunny Caribbean who may have thought they could continue to exploit taxpayers and students without anybody noticing.

It has broad support among the U.S. medical school community—endorsed by medical school deans of more than 60 venerable U.S. medical schools and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine.

I look forward to working with Senator CASSIDY as well as Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member MURRAY to address this issue as the HELP Committee begins consideration of the Higher Education Act.

USA PATRIOT ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I wish to explain why I support a short-term reauthorization of the national security authorities that expire on June 1, and why I will not vote for cloture on the latest version of the USA FREEDOM Act at this time. These authorities need to be reauthorized and reformed in a way that appropriately balances national security with the privacy and civil liberties of all Americans. I am hopeful that during the next few weeks we can do a better job of doing just that.

I start with the premise that these are important national security tools that shouldn't be permitted to expire. If that were to happen, there is little doubt that the country would be placed at greater risk of terrorist attack, at a time when we can least afford it. This isn't exaggeration or hyperbole.

We have recently witnessed the emergence of ISIS, a terrorist organization that controls large swaths of Iraq and Syria, including, as of just days ago, the capital of the largest province in Iraq. ISIS is beheading Americans and burning its captives alive for propaganda value. And fueled in part by black market oil sales, ISIS reportedly has at least \$2 billion.

The organization isn't just sitting on that money. Members of ISIS and related groups are actively recruiting would-be terrorists from around the world to come to Syria. They are inspiring attacks, often using social media, in the West, from Paris, to Sydney, to Ottawa, and even here in the United States, in places like New York City, Ohio, and Garland, TX. Director Comey has reported that the FBI has investigations of perhaps thousands of people in various stages of radicalization in all 50 States.

So this isn't the time to let these various authorities expire. This isn't the time to terminate the government's ability to conduct electronic surveillance of so-called "lone wolf" terrorists—people who are inspired by groups like ISIS but don't have direct contact with them. And this isn't the time to end the government's ability to seek roving wiretaps against terrorists. After all, this is a tool that prosecutors have used in criminal investigations since the mid-1980s.

Most of all, this isn't the time to sunset the government's ability to acquire records from businesses like hotels, car rental agencies, and supply