

said our workers don't work hard enough. He said that our workers don't work hard enough. Just talk to the parents of these kids. They are working hard, sometimes multiple jobs. They need to know their kids are safe.

I want to talk about one student, Gerardo Rodriguez, who grew up in poverty in Los Angeles. He dealt with the threat of violence and the allure of gang life. While he was at Carson Middle School, he chose to join an afterschool program that was run by the Boys and Girls Club instead of a gang. Gerardo went to an afterschool program instead of joining a gang. In statistics, he would be told he was likely to be a dropout. Instead, he graduated from Carson High. In 2012, he obtained \$3,000 in college scholarships. He is in his second year at California State University, Long Beach, and he is majoring in engineering.

We need to save kids like this. Yes, the parents are working hard, many hours, and they need afterschool help. This bill helps those kids. I would like to do more for more children, but I am thankful we are preserving this program.

Our working families need to know their kids are safe because there are more than 28 million parents of school-age children who are employed, including 23 million who work full time. These parents miss an average of 5 days of work a year because they don't have afterschool care and their child gets sick. We all know that. We have all gone through that. Our children have gone through that. So it was 30 years ago when I started to work on this issue.

I again thank Senators ALEXANDER and MURRAY for preserving afterschool care for our children.

E-CIGARETTES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I also thank Senators ALEXANDER and MURRAY for including my provisions on a dangerous product that is gaining popularity among our children, e-cigarettes. The language in the bill allows schools to use their same Federal funding that goes toward alcohol, drug, and tobacco education to teach children about more novel tobacco products such as e-cigarettes.

According to the CDC, youth use of e-cigarettes has tripled in 1 year from 2013 to 2014. Let me tell you, our kids are not getting accurate information. There is advertising that is aimed at them that makes it sound like this is just a wonderful opportunity for them.

What are our children being exposed to? It is not just nicotine—clearly, e-cigarettes are a nicotine delivery system—but even more.

Now the Surgeon General has said nicotine has a negative impact on adolescent brain development. So for God's sake, let us stop our kids from being able to smoke e-cigarettes on campus. I have an amendment that would do just that, and I hope it will be unani-

mously accepted because these e-cigarettes also contain benzene, cadmium, formaldehyde, propylene glycol, and nanoparticles that are present in traditional cigarettes, according to the California Department of Health.

So we need the FDA to finalize their rule on e-cigarettes. But in the meantime, youth use is soaring. We finally are making progress on reducing smoking among teens, and yet this e-cigarette situation is out of control. That is why I am pleased that in this bill schools will be able to teach kids about the dangers of e-cigarettes.

In conclusion, again I thank the bill's managers for helping me get the afterschool language in, protecting our kids after school, getting some language in to make sure we can educate our kids against the dangers of a new nicotine delivery system called e-cigarettes, but I also have three more amendments that are pending and I hope will pass.

The first one I talked about was clarifying that a ban on smoking in schools includes all tobacco products such as e-cigarettes. The second amendment would prohibit advertising e-cigarettes to children. When you see this—I am sorry I didn't bring the charts to the floor—they are using cartoon characters, the same kind of thing that was done by the big tobacco companies. Big Tobacco is behind this, let's be clear. We don't need another epidemic that starts killing our people before we finally turn the corner on regular smoking.

COLLEGE CAMPUS SEXUAL ASSAULT

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, the last amendment I have is a different subject, and it deals with college campus sexual assault. It would simply say that every college campus should have a confidential, independent advocate to help sexual assault survivors every step of the way.

I am proud to say that my legislation has been voluntarily adopted by universities in my home State of California, including the University of California, the State college system, and the community college system, to the extent they can deal with it, because there is a lot of discretion in that particular group of colleges. But I haven't heard from the private colleges in California.

So all we are saying in this amendment is let's make sure every college campus that gets Federal funds sets up a confidential advocate for women—for men as well who are also victims of sexual assault—so that from the beginning of their complaint they have a friend, they have a confidant, and they have someone who knows their rights with them every step of the way. I would be so proud to see this included.

I thank the Presiding Officer for his endurance on this little talk.

6-YEAR HIGHWAY BILL

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, next week I hear Senator MCCONNELL may be coming forward with a highway bill. I pray it is a 6-year bill. Republicans and Democrats voted one out of the EPW Committee—I am proud to say not one dissenting vote—a 6-year robust bill.

I hope we will fund it in a way that doesn't cut other jobs, while we are trying to create jobs in the transportation industry, but in fact looks at international tax reform, where we can actually help our businesses and have a tax system that is reformed. The funds that come in to us go to the highway trust fund so we can take care of those bridges that are falling done and insufficient—60,000 of them—the highways that need help, and the roads, 50 percent of which are in disrepair. We need help.

Our businesses need that help. They call for that help. They are the concrete people, the granite people. They are the general contractors, they are the engineers, our workers, and the construction workers. We still have 200,000 of them out of work since the great recession.

We need a 6-year highway bill. We need it now. We need it funded in a smart way that helps our economy keep on growing. So there is a lot of work ahead.

I wish to take this opportunity to say thank you to Senator ALEXANDER and Senator MURRAY—and a hopeful request to Senator MCCONNELL that the bill that comes to the floor on the highways is one which we can all embrace, and we can take care of this great Nation because, I will tell you, there isn't a great nation on Earth that doesn't have an infrastructure to match.

You have to move goods, you have to move people, and if you can't do that, we simply can't keep up in this global economy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EVERY CHILD ACHIEVES ACT

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, Nelson Mandela once said there can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way it treats its children.

Every child deserves a fair chance. If we fail at taking care of our children, we fail at everything else. So the stakes are high as we work to reform the No Child Left Behind Act. Too many children are left behind. The Every Child Achieves Act is a step forward.

I thank Senator ALEXANDER and Senator MURRAY for working so hard on this bill. It is bipartisan, and it is an opportunity for real progress in educating our children.

My dad used to say get it done, but get it done right. When we say “every child succeeds,” we have to mean it—every child, including those in the poorest and most vulnerable communities. That is what we must do. This is the bill we must pass.

I am cautiously optimistic, but I would remind my colleagues, we cannot keep playing catchup. I have met with child well-being experts in New Mexico and across the Nation. They are very clear. Early intervention is key. For too many children, there are too many hurdles and too little hope. Our commitment has to begin early and has to stay the course.

In New Mexico, almost one in three children lives in poverty. One in five goes to bed hungry. We are ranked next to last in education, last in overall child well-being. That is absolutely unacceptable. The future of my State, for our children and for our economy, depends on changing it.

Earlier this year, I introduced the Saving Our Next Generation Act for full funding for programs that work, that work on a daily basis, work in our communities for critical prenatal care, and for Healthy Start and Head Start. Too little too late doesn't work. The result is wasted opportunity and continued failure. Children need to arrive at school ready to learn and able to realize their full potential.

That is why I also emphatically support Senator CASEY's strong start amendment for pre-K education for every child. Early learning is critical. Senator CASEY's amendment would expand and improve those opportunities for children from birth to age 5.

We need to ensure all students get the same opportunities. I have introduced an amendment that provides support for Native American schools. The Bureau of Indian Education functions as a State education agency and has 50,000 students in it, but it is not funded as one. It often loses out on grants and other Federal funding. We have to change that.

Both sides have worked to improve this bill. I am pleased it has several measures that I have long fought for. For example, healthy children are an investment in our future. Their health education should be a priority, not an afterthought. The bill includes my amendment to make health a core subject.

In addition, we know that too many students, especially in minority communities, are not graduating. In my State, one-fifth of high school students drop out every year. Many who drop out are teen parents. My amendment provides critical support to these students. We need to do all we can to help them stay in school and to raise healthy children while they do so.

The Every Child Achieves Act strengthens STEM education, financial

literacy, rural school districts, and 21st century community learning centers. It ensures that tribal leaders can teach native languages in their schools—something I have long pushed for. It also supports vital school and community public-private partnerships. These are much needed reforms and will make a difference to children and families in my State.

Our goal is clear: to reach all students, especially those who need the most support to succeed in school.

In New Mexico, three out of four of our schools are title I schools. They face great challenges. Many students are low income. Many have special needs. We have to make sure they have the resources they need. This has to be a priority, and it starts with good teachers.

We aren't going to recruit great teachers—especially in schools with the greatest need—if we unfairly punish those teachers for poor student performance. There has to be flexibility, especially early on.

Our first obligation is to students—all students. We are accountable to them and their parents, and we need to keep applying pressure, while providing support, to States and school districts to ensure that truly no child is left behind. But we can't just test for failure; we need to plan for success. We should build on what works and leave behind what doesn't. But don't leave behind good students or those teachers who dedicate their lives to helping them.

Now is the time for reform—to ensure that standards are strong and, if not met, efforts are in place to help those students, to make sure parents and teachers know how students are performing every year, and to give States and school districts the support to succeed.

Let's be clear. We face troubling and chronic achievement and opportunity gaps. Every school must address this and be held accountable. Now is the time to address resource inequities. Now is the time to invest in what works. Now is the time to make sure we are not taking resources away from students, schools, and districts with the greatest need. Parents deserve to know that when children fall behind, their schools will take action and that we have the resources to do so.

But it isn't just schools that must act. So must we act—the Congress, parents, and communities. We all have a stake in this, and we share the same goal—to protect at-risk students, to provide accountability for taxpayer funds, and to make sure that every child has a fair chance.

I want to again commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for bringing this legislation to the floor. Working together we can provide all students with the education they need.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

S. 1722

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I rise to speak concerning the Dodd-Frank Act, which mandates the creation of 398 new rules. These rules are still in the process of being implemented, but already we have seen capital moving from productive uses to inefficient and unproductive uses as a result of this law. The end result is that every dollar going to comply with these rules is a dollar that can't be productively invested in our economy by providing loans or mortgages to customers or purchasing machines or, for that matter, hiring new employees. For example, at a recent Senate banking committee hearing, the comptroller for Regions Bank testified to us that the bank now employs more compliance employees than actual loan officers. This is not only bad for Regions Bank, it is harmful for our entire economy.

Unfortunately, we see examples of overregulation stemming from Washington way too often. Another example of an unnecessary and redundant rule that costs businesses capital is the so-called pay ratio rule buried in section 953 of Dodd-Frank, and today I come to the Senate floor introducing legislation to repeal it, S. 1722. Pay ratio requires the Securities and Exchange Commission to promulgate a rule requiring companies to calculate the median salary of all their employees and then divide their CEO's pay by that number.

According to one prominent organization in support of this rule, the purpose of it is to “shame companies into lowering CEO pay.” Forcing companies to move money from productive uses toward re-creating information that is already available so they can be shamed is a poor use of financial resources. In addition, it is also redundant. CEO pay is already public. If anyone is interested in finding the salary of a CEO of a public company, that information is easily available thanks to already existing disclosures. Also, both the Bureau of Labor Statistics and private economists already track the average salary for a wide variety of jobs. If we know the salary of a company's CEO and we know what their business does, we can already calculate a company's pay ratio. In fact, labor unions and private Web sites are already making these calculations.

Unfortunately, the result of the pay ratio rule is more than just an academic exercise; according to the SEC, companies will have to spend \$73 million per year to comply with this rule. And the U.S. Chamber of Commerce estimates the cost will be higher—as much as \$700 million per year or more.