

waits of more than 5 hours in order to cast their ballots in the March primary election. The cause of the delay was a decision by a local election official to massively cut the number of polling locations. In the 2008 primary, 400 polling places were available. In 2016, that number was slashed to a mere 60 locations. Prior to Shelby County, such a change would have been evaluated and likely challenged by the Justice Department in a preclearance review.

In Wisconsin, a newly implemented voter photo identification law led to challenges and confusion in the April primary. Press reports recently documented the story of one of the affected voters. Eddie Lee Holloway, Jr., moved from my home State of Illinois to Wisconsin in 2008 and was able to vote without any problems before the voter ID law went into effect. After the law was passed, Mr. Holloway went to a DMV in Milwaukee with an expired Illinois photo ID, his birth certificate, and his Social Security card to obtain a Wisconsin photo ID for voting. However, his application was rejected due to a clerical error on his birth certificate, which read "Eddie Junior Holloway."

Mr. Holloway spent hundreds of dollars traveling to Illinois to try to fix this problem. In addition to the Milwaukee DMV, he visited the Vital Records System in Milwaukee, the Illinois Vital Records Division in Springfield, an Illinois DMV, and his high school in Decatur, IL—all in an attempt to obtain sufficient records for a Wisconsin voter ID. Ultimately, he was unsuccessful. Despite all of these efforts, Mr. Holloway was unable to vote in the April primary.

What is particularly infuriating about Mr. Holloway's case is that Republicans in the Wisconsin State Legislature were hoping for exactly this type of outcome. The chief of staff to a leading Republican State senator in Wisconsin resigned last year after witnessing Republican legislators who were, "literally giddy" over the impact the new voter ID law would have on minority and student voters. In an interview with the *New York Times*, the former staffer said, "I remember when Republicans were the ones who helped Johnson pass the civil rights bill in the '60s." Indeed, it was 51 years ago this year President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bipartisan Voting Rights Act into law—guaranteeing that the right to vote would not be restricted through clever schemes, like poll taxes and literacy tests, devised to keep African Americans from voting.

I wish that, 51 years after we enacted the Voting Rights Act, our society had reached a point where its protections were no longer necessary, but we clearly have not, and the Voting Rights Act is still very much needed today.

That is why Senator LEAHY, Senator COONS, and I introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act last year. This legislation would restore the Voting Rights Act. It would ensure that

burdensome voting laws will be reviewed and, if found to be discriminatory, blocked before they go into effect.

I recently joined Senator LEAHY and our Democratic colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee in sending a letter to the chairman of the full committee and the chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee, urging them to hold a hearing on voting rights and the Voting Rights Advancement Act. Between 2007 and 2013, Senate Democrats held nine hearings to examine the issue of voting rights. In contrast, Republicans have not held a single hearing on voting rights since taking the majority in 2015.

This is disappointing. Voting rights has traditionally been a bipartisan issue. In 2006, Congress reauthorized the Voting Rights Act with an overwhelming bipartisan vote. Three hundred and ninety Members of the House and 98 Senators came together on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize the bill. Twenty-one hearings with more than 90 witnesses and a 15,000-page record illustrated to us that the Voting Rights Act was still very much needed. Three years ago, the Supreme Court ignored our efforts in Shelby County, but we can, and we must, come together once again to address voting rights.

Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER, a Republican from Wisconsin, has introduced legislation in the House to restore the Voting Rights Act. Earlier this year, he wrote an op-ed in the *New York Times*. He noted, "Ensuring that every eligible voter can cast a ballot without fear, deterrence and prejudice is a basic American right. I would rather lose my job than suppress votes to keep it."

I urge my colleagues to listen to Congressman SENSENBRENNER and join us in our fight to restore the Voting Rights Act. It is time to bring the bipartisan Voting Rights Advancement Act to the floor and ensure that the Federal Government is once again able to fully protect the fundamental right to vote.

#### REMEMBERING KASIA BOBER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to note the passing earlier this month of a treasured member of Chicago's Polish community, Kasia Bober, at the age of 80.

Back in August of 2005, I introduced a bill to grant honorary posthumous citizenship to Casimir Pulaski. I held a press conference in Chicago at the Polish Museum of America in front of a giant painting of Pulaski at the Battle of Savannah. Afterward, I sat down with leaders from the Polish community to discuss various issues. Kasia joined us for the meeting and brought those famous pierogi and other treats from her deli. I learned firsthand why some consider her the "Pierogi Queen" of Chicago.

Kasia's story is like many immigrant stories in the great melting pot of Chi-

cago. She came to the United States in 1974 in search of a better life. At first, she lived with relatives and was separated from her three children who remained in Poland. But after years of hard work, she was finally able to reunite with her children and open her own deli. Kasia's cooking quickly became a hit, especially her potato and cheese pierogi. Customers began to call from different States, which led to Kasia's pierogi being available today in 26 States.

Kasia's pierogi are so well known that at least three U.S. Presidents have eaten them while in Chicago. In an article that appeared in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, her granddaughter recalled that President George H.W. Bush dined on Kasia's pierogi while visiting the Copernicus Center, President Bill Clinton had some at the Taste of Chicago, and President Barack Obama ate a few during a Sister Cities festival. Polish labor leader Lech Walesa also enjoyed Kasia's cooking on a trip to Chicago.

It is quite the story for an immigrant who worked 7 days a week at multiple jobs while chasing her own American dream. Up until her passing, Kasia could still be found working at her namesake deli in Chicago's Ukrainian Village neighborhood. Chicago's "Pierogi Queen" may be gone, but she will not soon be forgotten.

I offer my condolences to Kasia's daughters, Barbara Jakubowicz and Maria Kordas; her son, Christopher; her sisters, Janina and Jozia; her six grandchildren; and her great-grandchild.

#### TRIBUTE TO THOMAS VANDEN BERK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to thank Thomas Vanden Berk for his extraordinary service to the city of Chicago. Tom has spent 40 years devoted to one cause: improving the lives of Chicago's most vulnerable by working with children and families who have been abused, neglected, and traumatized. Earlier this year, Tom announced he would be retiring as chief executive officer of the Uhlich Children's Advantage network, UCAN.

In 1987, when Tom joined UCAN, it was a small shelter housing 50 boys and girls, operating under a \$1.7 million budget and on the verge of closing. Under Tom's direction, UCAN grew into a multifaceted and financially sound shelter focusing on child welfare programs, violence prevention, and strategies for combating gun violence. Today UCAN is a leading child welfare organization in Chicago with a new \$41 million campus providing a full continuum of over 30 programs, servicing more than 10,000 people every year.

Tom's been the recipient of numerous awards, including the "Friend of Child" award from the Illinois Council on Training; Peace Leader Award from the Illinois Council for the Prevention of Violence; and the Council for Health

and Human Service Ministries Executive of the Year award.

Through Tom's creative leadership and hard work, UCAN has become a vital sanctuary for young people, providing security and healing for those who have suffered trauma. Over the last 29 years, Tom has built UCAN on one simple, but powerful premise: "Kids raised in violence are traumatized and trauma can be healed." Tom knows trauma better than most. As a young boy, his father, a part-time janitor at their church, was killed when a boiler he was repairing exploded. And on April 25, 1992, when kids barged into a party and started shooting, Tom lost his 15-year-old son. After the shooting, one thing became clear: "these were kids with absurdly easy access to guns." So Tom asked himself, "What am I going to do with this anger?" What he has done is become a leading voice and advocate in the campaign to reduce gun violence. Tom understands that it is not just a criminal justice issue; it is a public health crisis.

After his son's death, Tom realized that many of the troubled, neglected, and abused children that he spent his career working with had been traumatized by gun violence in their homes and community. His work through UCAN began to reflect that reality. He founded HELP for Survivors, a support group for parents who have lost loved ones to gun violence. Tom also became a founding member of the Bell Campaign, known today as the Million Mom March, which formed an alliance with the Brady Campaign in 2001. In 2002, Tom was named the Join Together Hero, which recognizes true leaders of the gun violence prevention movement. And in 2007, he received the Citizens Advocacy Award from the Illinois Council against Handgun Violence.

When asked to reflect on his career, Tom remains focused on the problems facing the community: not enough beds for impoverished kids who endure violence, a ridiculously high number of shootings, effective gun laws blocked by the National Rifle Association, and on and on. He says, "I can't sit here and say, 'Oh, my God, I've done wonderful things and it's better.'" We have a long way to go and progress is hard, but no one can deny the difference Tom has made.

Just listen to those that know Tom and UCAN best—young people like Tatiara, who came to UCAN in 2012 through the Family Works program. Here is what she said: "UCAN takes you under their wing. You are not just another number but you are your own person. They really care about you. It's like you're part of a family." Or take Alexis, a 23-year-old mother, whose daughter Aliyah was born premature with multiple complications including Down's syndrome, a tethered spinal cord, and a heart defect. Here is what she said: "I would recommend UCAN because if you need something or need to get somewhere they will find the an-

swer. I would be lost without them." Alexis and Aliyah are 1 of more than 100 families that UCAN's High-Risk Infant Program provides preventive and supportive services to every year. These are just a couple of the countless success stories.

I have visited UCAN and met the children it serves. Their stories are inspiring. And I am thankful that UCAN is making a difference in the lives of so many young people in Illinois. So on behalf of all those UCAN has served during Tom Vanden Berk's tenure, I want to tell him he has done wonderful things, and because of his passion and dedication, people's lives have gotten better.

Fortunately for Chicago, Tom isn't going far. Later this summer, he will transition to CEO emeritus and will continue to fundraise and advocate for UCAN and the children and families it serves. I want to congratulate Thomas Vanden Berk on his distinguished career and thank him for all he has done—and all he will continue to do. Illinois and the country are grateful for his service.

#### TRIBUTE TO TERI SPOUTZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have often remarked that the education of a Senator is a daunting task. Fortunately, the U.S. Senate is blessed with many talented staff who are dedicated to that challenge.

Among them is Ms. Teri Spoutz, a professional staff member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee for the past 5 years. To read through Teri's accomplishments is to understand how fortunate the Senate is to be able to attract some of the best talent in Washington, DC.

Teri grew up in southern California and began her career as a civilian at Los Angeles Air Force Base. As a financial manager, she served in a variety of positions overseeing major acquisitions of satellites and rockets for the Air Force.

Teri and her family then left sunny California for the cold, windswept plains of the missile fields at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, WY, as her husband, Stephen, pursued his promising career as an Air Force officer. The Spoutz family landed in Washington, DC, in 2003, and Teri continued her work in the Pentagon.

By 2008, Teri had been promoted to the Senior Executive Service as the Chief of Budget Investment for the Department of the Air Force. For nearly 3 years, Teri was the top financial overseer of all Air Force procurement, research and development, and military construction funding.

In March 2011, Teri was persuaded to join the staff of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee under the leadership of Chairman Daniel Inouye. Her expert knowledge of how the defense acquisition system works—and, too often, how it does not work—has resulted in many billions of dollars for

our national defense being cut from underperforming programs and reinvested in more important ones.

As a staffer, she carried out in-depth reviews on the most important programs in the Pentagon's budget, including detailed annual examinations of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the largest weapons contract in the history of the Pentagon, and dozens of other large developmental and procurement programs.

But Teri has always held a special interest in space. On the Defense Subcommittee, she led investigations into bringing competition to space launch, which in just the last year has shown can cut the cost of rockets by half. She was also vital in stopping an effort to cut off access to rocket engines that are vital to our national security, which could have resulted in billions of additional costs to the U.S. taxpayer.

Teri is soon leaving the U.S. Senate. I thank her for her service on the Defense Subcommittee, commend her for all that she has accomplished, and wish her and her family all the best.

#### INTERNET GAMBLING

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, in 2011, the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel, OLC, issued a legal opinion reversing 50 years of interpretation of the Wire Act. Lawyers there concluded the act does not ban gambling over the Internet, as long as the betting is not on the outcome of a sporting event.

In effect, this opinion means the Justice Department has stopped enforcing a law it had consistently enforced for five decades. Left on its own, the DOJ opinion could usher in the most fundamental change in gambling in our lifetimes by turning every smartphone, tablet, and personal computer in our country into casinos available 24/7.

The FBI has warned online casinos are susceptible to use for money laundering and other criminal activity, and online casinos are bound to prey on children and society's most vulnerable.

It took Congress a decade to develop the Wire Act. It took Congress 7 additional years to enact the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act, the 2006 law giving law enforcement new tools to shut down online casinos. DOJ's opinion gutted both laws.

Despite the wide-ranging implications of this opinion, there was no solicitation of public comment, nor any input sought from State and local officials. There is also no indication the Department considered the very significant law enforcement, social, and economic issues raised by Internet gambling.

We note that a number of States have authorized Internet gambling, despite the fact the DOJ opinion does not carry the force of law, a fact confirmed by our Attorney General, who, in response to questions posed during her confirmation proceedings, wrote, "I am not aware of any statute or regulation