

women who have been infected. This money will be used for vaccine development, mosquito control, and the delivery of much needed health care.

While I am glad Congress will finally provide these much-needed funds, Congress should have provided this funding sooner. It has been 7 months since the President requested emergency funding to address Zika and 4 months after the Senate passed a bipartisan bill to provide Zika funding.

But it has taken this long for Republicans to finally agree to drop their outrageous demands to attach partisan poison pills to this vital public health funding. The agreement does not include controversial policy riders to overturn provisions of the Clean Water Act, nor does it block money from going to Planned Parenthood health centers that so many women rely on to access health care.

We have also reached a bipartisan agreement on providing funding to address the crisis in Flint, MI. The people of Flint have waited 1 year—far too long—for Congress to do our job and address the public health emergency that has poisoned 9,000 children and left 100,000 residents without access to clean and safe water. Instead of turning on the tap to make breakfast or take a shower, Flint residents start their day by waiting in long lines for bottled water to feed and bathe their children, take showers, and stay healthy. The House has moved to include funding for Flint in their Water Resources and Development bill, and I am hopeful that a final agreement on assistance for Flint will be reached in the coming months. I also hope the final agreement will include funding for other communities, like those in my home State of Illinois, facing lead contaminated water issues.

While this continuing resolution is a promising, bipartisan step forward, I am concerned about a provision that limits the Security and Exchange Commission's ability to finalize, issue, or implement a corporate political spending disclosure rule. In 2010, the Supreme Court issued a far-reaching decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*. On a divided 5–4 vote, the Court struck down years of precedent and held that the First Amendment permitted corporations to spend freely from their treasuries to influence elections. As a result of *Citizens United* and a series of decisions that followed in its wake, special interests and wealthy, well-connected campaign donors have so far poured more than \$2 billion of outside spending into recent Federal elections, including 2016 races. In the years since *Citizens United*, several of my colleagues and I have called for the SEC to initiate a rulemaking requiring public companies to disclose their political spending to shareholders. More than 1.2 million securities experts, institutional and individual investors, and members of the public have asked the SEC for a disclosure rule. Such a rulemaking would

bring much-needed transparency to the U.S. political process. Shareholders deserve to know when outside spending in political campaigns comes from the coffers of a company they have invested in.

Unfortunately, last year, this provision limiting the SEC's rulemaking authority was slipped into the omnibus appropriations bill, which we had to pass in order to fund the government for the 2016 fiscal year. And I am disappointed that under this continuing resolution, this rider will continue to strangle the SEC's authority. I will work with my colleagues to strike this problematic rider in future legislation.

I am also disappointed that the continuing resolution fails to address ongoing issues with the Export-Import Bank. Last fall, a bipartisan majority of the House and Senate joined together to end a 5-month shutdown of the Export-Import Bank. Despite the end of the shutdown, the Bank remains unable to function because the board lacks the quorum necessary to approve financing deals of more than \$10 million. This not only harms large manufacturers and their employees, it also has a negative impact on thousands of small businesses that are suppliers and subcontractors and the hard-working men and women they employ. The President has nominated two qualified candidates, including a Republican, to serve on the board, but those nominations are being held hostage by the Chairman of the Senate Banking Committee. That is why I have supported language to deem the existing board as having the quorum needed to do its work until these nominations can be considered—a move that is not unprecedented. It is my hope that we will continue to work together to restore the Bank's operating board quorum so that we can prevent further disruption to the economic security of American workers.

I am proud that bipartisan cooperation resulted in today's continuing resolution to keep the federal government open and operating through December 9, but our work here in Congress is hardly done. I will continue to work with colleagues over the months ahead to reach a bipartisan agreement on how we will fund the federal government for the year to come and finally provide funding to address the public health crisis in Flint.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, and I wish to commend the association for its seven-and-a-half decades of dedicated service to the people of Illinois.

Since its creation in 1941, the association has worked to elevate the training and professional development of law enforcement leadership through-

out the State, including working to establish the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois. The association makes sure that police chiefs have the information and training they need to engage in effective community policing. From its headquarters on Fifth Street in Springfield, the association's influence has spread across the Nation and the world, with seven members of the association having served as the president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Throughout its history, the association has worked to earn and maintain the respect of the people the association's members serve. The association has been guided by its values of compassion, integrity, accountability, fairness, professionalism, innovation, continuous improvement, diversity and inclusion. Not only has the association represented the voices of Illinois' law enforcement leaders as they work to protect the community, but the association also has given back to the community through its longstanding support of the Special Olympics and other charitable causes.

As the association comes together on October 1, 2016, to celebrate its 75th anniversary, I want to recognize and honor the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, its more than 1,200 members from nearly 500 agencies across Illinois, its staff, and its board of officers: President Chief Steven Casstevens of the Buffalo Grove Police Department, First Vice President Chief James Kruger of the Oak Brook Police Department, Second Vice President Chief Brian Fengel of the Bartonville Police Department, Third Vice President Chief Steven Stelter of the Westchester Police Department, Fourth Vice President Chief James Black of the Crystal Lake Police Department, Immediate Past President Chief Frank Kaminski of the Park Ridge Police Department, and Parliamentarian Chief Russell Laine of the Fox Lake Police Department.

Our men and women in law enforcement put their lives on the line every day to help protect and serve our communities. For the past 75 years, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police has been there to help support and guide Illinois' police chiefs and their departments every step of the way. I am grateful to the association for its steadfast service to our State, and I commend and honor the association on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING CREATING ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities, CEO, program, a yearlong class that creates a real-world learning environment for high school students across Illinois.

The CEO program was started by author Jack Schultz, Craig Lindvall, and other community leaders to change the

way America's youth approach problems and give them more control over their futures. The mission of the CEO program is "to prepare youths to be responsible, enterprising individuals who become entrepreneurs and contribute to the economic development and sustainability of their community."

Throughout this program, participants visit 30 to 50 community businesses during the school year. They learn how to start their own businesses from actual CEOs of local, national, and international companies. They also develop important life skills: critical thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and communication. Through this program, students gain a new sense of self-confidence to become future business leaders.

The success of the CEO program would not be possible without Craig Lindvahl, the executive director of the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship in Effingham, IL. Every day he works to empower students through the CEO program. Craig, who is a nationally recognized teacher and filmmaker, has spent the last 5 years teaching the CEO program and bringing together business people, community leaders, and students from high schools across Illinois. The program has also expanded into Minnesota and Indiana.

Under Craig's leadership, the CEO program is helping build a strong foundation for our students, which will have a lasting effect on their futures. Our Nation's economy is evolving at a rapid rate, and in order to meet labor demands and foster innovation, we need mentors like Craig and programs like CEO to help prepare our students with the necessary skills to be competitive and successful. I had a chance to see this for myself when I visited the Williamson and Jackson Counties CEO classes in May and watched students present their final projects.

It is with great pride that today I recognize the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities program for the transformative education they are providing the next generation of entrepreneurs and community leaders.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID YEPSEN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments to acknowledge David Yepsen, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, SIU. Earlier this year, David announced that he would be retiring in late October.

Prior to joining the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIU, David was a political writer, editor, and columnist. He spent over three decades at the Des Moines Register. If you have a passion for covering politics, like David Yepsen does, there is no better place to be. Every 4 years, the political class descends on Iowa, and no one takes this more seriously than Iowans. Iowans and politicians fill churches, community centers, schools, libraries, and homes on cold winter nights to talk politics

with friends and neighbors. At the center of this political three-ring circus is the Des Moines Register, and for nine Presidential campaign cycles, that meant David Yepsen.

It should come as no surprise that David has had a lifelong interest in politics. In high school, he was elected student body president, governor of the Iowa American Legion's Boys' State program, and U.S. senator in the group's Boys Nation program.

David Yepsen is "Mr. Iowa." Born in Jefferson, IA, David graduated from the University of Iowa, studied journalism and mass communications at Iowa State University, and earned a masters in public administration from Drake University in Des Moines. In 1977, David became a Statehouse reporter for the Des Moines Register. And in 1983, he got his big break becoming the Des Moines Register's chief political reporter. He was later named political editor and, in 2000, was promoted to full-time political columnist.

In 1997, after retiring from the U.S. Senate, Paul Simon established a public policy institute at Southern Illinois University. When it first opened, the institute was considered a think tank by many, but not by Paul Simon. He called it a "do tank." In 2009, David Yepsen became director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, and under his leadership, it was exactly that. Throughout the years, he has organized countless events—including a "pizza and politics" program—encouraging students on campus to get involved in politics and government. David never lost sight of Paul Simon's vision and always searched for ways the institute could educate the public and even influence Washington, DC. He was always looking for opportunities to take the institute to the next level.

Although Senator Paul Simon never saw David Yepsen lead his institute, it was clear what he thought of him and the job he would do. In 1988, when Senator Simon ran for the Democratic nomination to be President of the United States, he praised David's objectivity. He said: "Every four years the chief political reporter for the Des Moines Register becomes the most important reporter in the nation. It is a position that could cause vanity and abuse. To his credit, David Yepsen handled this position with sensitivity and balance. And he worked hard." That is high praise, but well deserved.

Some of the best advice I have received is from Senator Paul Simon. He used to say that "when people disagree with my vote I want them to say that it's because I'm ignorant or stupid, not because I'm greedy or making money." With his credentials and years at the Des Moines Register, David had plenty of opportunities to cash in on his success and make money, but instead, he chose to take a job as director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIU in Carbondale, IL. Paul Simon would have been proud.

I want to congratulate David Yepsen on his distinguished career and thank

him for continuing the outstanding work started by Senator Paul Simon at Southern Illinois University. I especially want to thank David's wife, Dr. Mary Stuart, and daughter Elizabeth for sharing so much of their husband and father with the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIU. I wish him and his family all the best.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY DELAURENTIS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday President Obama nominated Jeffrey DeLaurentis to be U.S. Ambassador to Cuba. If confirmed, Mr. DeLaurentis would be the first U.S. Ambassador in Havana in more than half a century.

I have known Jeff DeLaurentis since he became the U.S. chief of mission in Havana, and he is the obvious choice to be ambassador. He is a career diplomat who is universally respected by his peers and by Democrats and Republicans in Congress for his intellect, his integrity, and his thoughtfulness.

The decision to resume diplomatic relations with Cuba has been widely supported, and the number of Americans traveling to Cuba is increasing dramatically. We need an ambassador who knows Cuba, who is respected by the Cuban Government, and who will stand up for U.S. interests and values. Jeff DeLaurentis is that person. The Cuban people have their ambassador in Washington. The American people need their ambassador in Havana.

Not surprisingly, one Senator who has opposed the resumption of diplomatic relations with Cuba criticized the nomination of Mr. DeLaurentis. While he did not challenge Mr. DeLaurentis's qualifications for the job, since he is obviously exceptionally well qualified, the Senator instead said "rewarding the Castro government with a U.S. ambassador is another last-ditch legacy project for the president that needs to be stopped." He said the nomination "should go nowhere until the Castro regime makes significant and irreversible progress in the areas of human rights and political freedom for the Cuban people." He was joined in his opposition to Mr. DeLaurentis's nomination by another Senator.

Having been to Cuba many times where I have met with Cuban Government officials, as well as with critics of the government, including some who have been persecuted and imprisoned, no one is a stronger defender of human rights there than I am. Like President Obama, we all want the Cuban people to be able to express themselves freely and to choose their own leaders in a free and fair election.

For 50 years, we have tried the isolationist approach advocated by a dwindling minority of Members of Congress, and it has failed miserably. The Castros are still in power, and Cuba is still a country where political dissent is not tolerated.

No one who knows Cuba expected the resumption of diplomatic relations to