

came up with (House Bill) 463 to put a lot of people on probation, more than we had in the past, mainly drug offenses, and it has done what we said it would do . . . Now some people might say we're being too easy on them. The thing about drug addiction, the way I see it, in the courtroom, your criminal days are just filled up with drug cases. Most of them are pleading out, a lot of probation, some diversions. And then about 50 percent of them end up going to prison or jail anyway because they can't comply with the terms. But still, if you look at it that way, it's 50 percent, which is not a good rate, but actually there are 50 percent that aren't going back, which is a good rate, and it has saved us a considerable amount of money."

Jensen said that while he won't be running for office again, he enjoyed the political process and may involve himself in it in other ways, advocating for causes he believes in, primarily those that help his adopted hometown.

"This will be the last political position that I have," he said. "I'm not saying I won't help out somebody politically or maybe get involved in somebody's campaign, but I don't think I'll ever run for anything again. I think I'm done running. But I always liked politics . . . I intend to go back and practice law, but I might even lobby some. I've still got some real good friends in the legislature, so I might do that and lobby for some projects, mainly things that I think would help Laurel County."

For example, Jensen cites the ongoing efforts of Cumberland River Comprehensive Care to build a juvenile drug rehab in Laurel County as a project he would like to have more involvement in.

"One of the things that I even worked on as judge was to try to help Cumberland River Comp Care get the old juvenile detention facility," he said. "I did help by going to Frankfort to talk to the governor and some others . . . What they want to do is have a juvenile rehab center in there, and I can tell you, looking at my court system, these people that are adults on drugs in my court, they didn't start when they became 18. They started at 12, 13. It's actually alarming when you talk to some of them, the age they began this stuff. So I felt like that was a really good endeavor to get into. I'd like to even help them maybe get some more money to fix up more of that building . . . it's going to take considerable money to get it up and operating, and Comp Care has made the commitment to do it, but I thought I'd try to maybe help them, see if I could get them a little more money to help the renovation along a little quicker. That's one of the projects I've developed for myself in retirement."

Jensen is not a Laurel County native, but he has spent his entire career here, after following a basketball scholarship from his hometown of Cincinnati to Sue Bennett Junior College nearly 50 years ago.

"My high school coach was a guy named Ralph Rush, and he was from Bush, and of course I never heard of Bush, growing up in Cincinnati, but he brought me down here," Jensen said. "My grades were not real good in school. I was not a particularly good student. I went to school mainly to play sports probably . . . But that's what brought me down here, and I just kind of fell in love with it here in London and the surrounding area. I think I like the small town more than I ever did a big city. Even though London's not a particularly small town anymore, I wouldn't live anywhere else. This is it. When I left Sue Bennett, I had a lot of scholarship offers, and I went to Eastern Illinois University. I went up there and just didn't like it, and I quit. And this is 1969, I guess, and my dad was furious with me. Vietnam was going

on, and he said, 'Here you are going to school for free. What are you going to do?' And I said, 'Well, I'll just join the Army.' But my dad threw such a fit . . . So I came back down to London and talked to Ernie Wiggins, who was my coach at Sue Bennett . . . and it just so happened that night they were going to play at Cumberland College, and he asked me if I wanted to go down . . . I went to Cumberland and finished up there. I met my wife there. Got married. Came to London—that's where her family's from—and decided to go to law school about two years later."

Jensen married Nannette Curry and the couple have two daughters, Natalie Jensen and Laura Jensen Hays, who were growing up during Jensen's time in the legislature.

"I enjoyed . . . all those years doing that, looking back on them, other than the time I was away from my family," Jensen said. "You know when you're away from your kids and then they grow up, and if anything goes wrong, you start blaming yourself: should have been there more," but my wife did a really good job, she covered all the bases. She was a good mother, she was real involved with the kids."

These days, Jensen says he's looking forward to having time to watch his grandchildren swim—they are both on the swim team at Corbin High School—but he doesn't really have any other hobbies. He said he wants to keep serving Laurel County, just in different ways.

"How many years can you do this? I don't know. I just know that I want to work until I can't work anymore," he said.

He would like to continue to combat the drug problem in the area, something he has seen first-hand as a judge.

"The biggest problem I see facing us today is drugs, and if you come and watch a criminal day, it's nearly all drugs, everybody that's convicted. Now, they might have a theft with it, but they were stealing money to buy drugs . . . It's really sad. I see that as a major problem, not only in Kentucky but across the nation," Jensen said.

All told, though, Jensen said he is proud of his life's work and feels fortunate to have been able to accomplish what he has for the people of the region.

"I'm glad I left Cincinnati to come down here. It's just been a good life for me here," Jensen said. "I've made a lot of good friends . . . I've been very fortunate. And the people of this community . . . have been really, really good to me. When I was in the Senate, I was representing five counties: Laurel, Jackson, Estill, Powell and Menifee counties. They were always good to me. This (Laurel County) courthouse here, I put the money in the budget for this and the one in Jackson County, too. Those kind of things, when you look back on it, things you were able to accomplish, it kind of makes you feel good about some of it. Some of the things you couldn't accomplish, you know, it's frustrating that you thought you knew the right way to go and couldn't get there, but the things that you have gotten right . . . that makes you feel good. And I know what I accomplished. I don't need my name on a building or anything to know what I did, and I'm pretty proud of the things I did accomplish. It's up to the next generation now to accomplish even more and do things even better."

#### NORTH KOREA SANCTIONS AND POLICY ENHANCEMENT BILL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I was necessarily absent from today's vote, vote No. 20, on the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act due to events in Illinois. Had I

been present, I would have voted "yea" in support of H.R. 757, to advance sanctions against North Korea, and was glad to see it adopted.

Today marks the ninth anniversary of President Obama's announcement of his intention to run for President. He made the announcement from the steps of the old State capitol, the reconstructed building where Abraham Lincoln delivered his "House Divided" speech in my hometown of Springfield, IL. Today, the President and I returned to Illinois to commemorate his historic announcement and his service in the Illinois State Senate. I try to never miss votes, but this was a very special occasion in my home State.

I have been deeply concerned about nuclear weapons programs in countries such as Iran and North Korea. Almost 10 years ago, I joined with then-Senator Gordon Smith in introducing the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act, which became the basis for eventual petroleum sanctions against Iran that helped compel a negotiated nuclear agreement. I also cosponsored and voted for the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Sanctions Consolidation Act, which became law in 2012.

And I was pleased to be one of the three cosponsors of the North Korea Sanctions Enforcement Act of 2015 led by Senator MENENDEZ, key parts of which are included in the bill being voted on today.

North Korea has bedeviled administrations, both Republican and Democratic alike, and as such, this legislation is a step in the right direction.

I have some concerns with the final bill in areas where I think more flexibility for the executive branch would have been appropriate, but such is the nature of compromise.

North Korea's recent actions testing nuclear weapons, launching missiles that could carry a nuclear warhead, and apparently restarting its plutonium production are all deeply troubling. North Korea's leadership does this while many of its own people are starving or locked away in political prison camps. This is unconscionable.

One often wonders how such an isolated and repressive regime is able to continue such dangerous antics.

How does it pay for such endeavors and how does it pay off the sycophants and enablers needed to maintain such a police state?

After all, a nuclear-armed, erratic North Korea is not only a threat to the United States and its allies in the region, but to China as well. Such actions clearly are not in China's security interests.

Yet, frustratingly, too often, China seems unwilling to take necessary steps to isolate and pressure the North Korean regime. I understand China doesn't want a collapsed state on its border. I also understand it doesn't want a unified, Western-leaning Korea on its border.

But I ask our Chinese friends, is what we have today really serving Chinese security interests?

The North Korean leadership has thumbed its nose at the Chinese, ignoring entreaties and some measure of protection offered against tighter sanctions or Security Council action. I was recently in New York meeting with our talented Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, and I was dismayed at the challenge she faces in obtaining greater Chinese help on this matter.

Now, I know the Chinese and some other apologists will argue that North Korea is so isolated that further sanctions would not work and may even backfire. But we know that there have been effective measures against the North, for example, going after luxury goods and overseas accounts linked to the regime and ruling elite.

Yet, despite international sanctions on luxury goods to North Korea, the New York Times recently reported how China loosely defines such goods and continues to allow North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's army's to import equipment from China to build a world-class ski resort.

That is right—a world-class ski resort in a country that can't feed its own people.

In fact, according to the report, Chinese customs data showed that North Korea imported \$2.09 billion in luxury goods between 2012 and 2014, including armored cars and luxury yachts.

And, according to United Nations trade statistics, in 2014, China exported \$37 million worth of computers, \$30 million of tobacco, \$24 million of cars, and \$9 million of air-conditioning equipment to North Korea.

So I hope this legislation will tighten the measures against luxury goods used to buy loyalty for the regime. And I hope the Chinese realize that ignoring this regime is far riskier than working with the United States and others to rein in North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

Let us also not forget that in 2014, the U.N. General Assembly voted to refer the North Korean regime to the International Criminal Court for well-documented crimes against humanity.

Earlier, a U.N. commission of inquiry report documented massive crimes against humanity in North Korea, including deliberate starvation, forced labor, executions, torture, rape, and infanticide, among other crimes—most of them committed in North Korea's political prison camp systems.

The almost 400-page report concluded that the bulk of the crimes against humanity were committed "pursuant to policies set at the highest levels of the state" and were "without parallel in the contemporary world."

This criminal regime holds between 80,000–120,000 political prisoners in its system of gulags.

So I am glad this sanctions legislation also includes provisions that address North Korea's terrible human rights record.

Let me close by reaffirming my support for our South Korean and Asian

allies that are at the most immediate threat from North Korea—not to mention the more than 25,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in South Korea. As such, without progress on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program, I support the deployment of necessary missile defense technologies to help protect these allies.

#### DISAPPEARANCE OF 43 STUDENTS IN MEXICO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it has been well over a year since 43 students from Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College were forcibly disappeared in the state of Guerrero, Mexico. On September 26, 2014, around 100 students from the college traveled to the city of Iguala. They were there to raise money and to obtain buses to attend a commemoration of the infamous massacre of more than 600 students in the capital in 1968.

The now former mayor of Iguala has been accused of ordering the attack on the students that evening. While the motive remains a mystery, what appears to have occurred is that the police used lethal force against the students, and the 43 who are missing were handed over to the criminal organization Guerreros Unidos. Six people were killed that day, and the fate of the 43 disappeared students remains unknown.

After it became clear, thanks to the courageous and dogged work of foreign journalists that a horrific crime had been covered up by Guerrero officials and the police, the Mexican Government established the Interdisciplinary Group of Independent Experts of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to provide independent analysis and technical assistance to the government.

The experts' September 2015 report, released on the eve of the 1-year anniversary of this tragedy, exposed significant deficiencies in the government's handling of the investigation and provided an opportunity for the government to restore the integrity of its own inquiry. The government's decision to extend the experts' mandate in the fall was a welcome signal of political will and a desire to build credibility.

But as the end of the experts' mandate nears, President Peña Nieto is running out of time to demonstrate that that political will has a lasting impact. The manner in which this investigation is conducted has grave implications not only for the victims of the attacks in Iguala and their families, but for the victims of countless other incidents in which Mexican citizens have vanished during the past decade and remain unaccounted for.

I urge the Mexican Government to fully support the experts' investigation by ensuring maximum cooperation of all Mexican officials, including on issues related to the experts' access to all those potentially involved in this incident and the serious pursuit of all

possible leads the experts have identified, including by soliciting assistance from the United States.

I also urge the government to publicly refute the campaign that some have waged to delegitimize the experts as a way to discredit their work. If the experts' work is forced to carry on with only the passive acquiescence of the government—or worse, subtle attempts to hinder its work—rather than its active support, the progress that has been made may be lost and with it the truth and the Mexican Government's remaining credibility on this issue.

The Mexican people, like people everywhere who care about human rights, deserve to know what happened to these students. As I mentioned, we also know there are thousands of other cases in Mexico of disappearances and many reports by the National Human Rights Commission and reputable human rights organizations of incidents of torture and extrajudicial killings. The only way to effectively address the kind of lawlessness that has become far too prevalent in Mexico is to conduct credible, thorough investigations and appropriately punish those responsible, so the message is clear that no one is above the law.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO FRED SEARS

• Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today, on behalf of Delaware's congressional delegation of U.S. Senator TOM CARPER and U.S. Representative JOHN CARNEY, I wish to recognize a close friend from Delaware, Fred Sears—a community leader and a passionate advocate for all in our community; a man whose name is synonymous with business leadership and public service in my home State of Delaware, and a man I am proud to call my friend.

Fred is known statewide for his generosity, his enthusiasm, and his business acumen. For decades, his impact has been felt by elected officials, nonprofit and community leaders, and countless Delawareans of all backgrounds and careers. He is a true leader, an authentic champion of the community, and the embodiment of what service means in Delaware.

Fred Sears is a Delawarean through and through, born just blocks away from his boyhood home at what was then called Wilmington Hospital, he grew up across the river from Brandywine Zoo. This Delaware native attended Mt. Pleasant Elementary, Alfred I. DuPont Junior High, and Wilmington Friends School for high school. Fred went on to earn a business degree from the University of Delaware and had a great deal of fun, including a truly memorable spring break trip to the Bahamas with JOE BIDEN, his classmate and friend.

After graduating from UD in 1964, Fred began a nearly 40-year career in banking. Fresh out of college, Fred was