

Hartsell, Artwork Title: "Heart Sunset," Grade 5, Washington Elementary, Valley City; Sydney Nelson, Artwork Title: "Welding in the Fall," Grade 12, Valley City High School, Valley City, and Olivia Dorsher, Artwork Title: "Good Boring Days," Grade 11, Grand Forks Central High School, Grand Forks.

I congratulate these students and thank them for sharing their talents with my North Dakota constituents who will visit my State offices this year. They are an inspiration to all of us who appreciate the gift artists have for capturing the beauty all around us. I also commend those who judge this annual competition and the teachers and parents who have nurtured the emerging skills of these young North Dakota artists.●

#### VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY WINNERS

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, since 2010 I have sponsored a State of the Union essay contest for Vermont high school students. This contest gives students in my State the opportunity to articulate what issues they would prioritize if they were President of the United States.

This is the contest's 10th year, and I would like to congratulate the 536 students who participated. It is truly heartening to see so many young people engaged in finding solutions for the problems that face our country. To my mind, this is what democracy is all about.

A volunteer panel of Vermont teachers reviewed the essays, and chose Isabelle Hiller as this year's winner. Isabelle, a junior at Woodstock Union High School, wrote about reforming our incarceration system. Lucas Whitaker, a sophomore at Hazen Union High School, was the second place winner. Lucas wrote about youth suicide and the need for comprehensive mental health care. Maya Marcy, a junior at Long Trail School, was the third place winner, with an essay on the cost of college.

I am very proud to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the essays submitted by Isabelle, Lucas and Maya:

WINNER, ISABELLE HILLER, WOODSTOCK UNION HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR, EDUCATION IN INCARCERATION

Our country's federal prison system is stuck in an ethical rut. We seem to focus on securing institutions and confining offenders like savage dogs in a pound to "protect the public," and disregard the fact that 44,000 prisoners return to society each year. The Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) claims that public safety is the goal of detention, but without any mental shift in convicts, all we do is press pause on their potential harm to society until their release. Currently, we have one of the highest prison populations in the world. Unless we plan to incarcerate all convicts for life, our approach to detainment should shift from 'prison' to 'rehabilitation', focusing on equipping prisoners with the skills to be mentally stable and financially and lawfully successful.

To do so, all prisoners should not only have access to academic resources, but be re-

quired to attend a set number of courses each year. Just a few decades ago, Finland had one of the highest imprisonment rates in Europe. Because of this, researchers started investigating its cause. They concluded that punishment does not help reduce crime. As a result, Finland began 'decarceration,' which was better for the prisoners and crime rates didn't increase. Without teaching prisoners skills or continuing their education, we merely take them out of their lives and throw them back with no change, and no basis to be stable in any realm.

In the United States, prisoners have a higher likelihood of returning to illegal markets and returning to prison. As of October 2017, the BOP found that only 32 percent of the entire designated inmate population was enrolled in one or more education or recreation programs. Furthermore, participation decreases 16 percent in the recidivism population. The only academic requirement in our federal prison system is that inmates without a high school diploma or a General Education Development have to enroll in a literacy program, and need to be successful for good conduct time. However, even for this requirement alone, there is a stoppage to access the program due to overflow of over 16,000 inmates—that's a lot of potential students. Plus, although mock job and resume builder courses are offered, inmates do not take advantage of them—even with the knowledge that occupational training program participants are 33 percent less likely to recidivate.

By increasing funding of education, we ensure equal accessibility to all courses for those 16,000 or more inmates wanting to take courses. Consequently the recidivism rate will reduce, decreasing our total prison population, and lower the overall government spending on imprisonment as a whole. By treating inmates like humans in their time of rehabilitation, with a lower recidivism rate, we more confidently ensure public safety when 44,000 convicts are released each year, strengthening the Department of Justice's prison system core ideologies. Although we have the right end goal, we need to rethink the process by which we get there for the sake of the public's safety and security.

SECOND PLACE, LUCAS WHITAKER, HAZEN UNION HIGH SCHOOL, SOPHOMORE

One of the biggest issues in America's society today is the mental health crisis in our youth, relating back to the lack of mental health services in our schools. In many cases, this leads to preventable death by suicide. According to a 2017 study by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the U.S.

Paula Clayton, medical director of AFSP, states that 90% of youth that kill themselves have a treatable psychiatric disorder. She explains that even in suicide clusters, there's almost always an underlying disorder, whether it's due to at-home issues or anything else that may be going on, suicide is the last straw. From this information we can gather that mental health is a big part of losing students to suicide. There are several steps that can be taken to ensure that our youth are getting the help they need.

First of all, mental health professionals on campus is a priority. If funds are an issue, as they usually are, fundraisers are always an option. Schools tend to raise funds for their athletic and music departments, as well as others, but typically not for mental health. Money can be raised in fundraisers not unlike the ones that are used to raise money for extracurricular activities. This way mental health professionals can be on campus for students to speak with at any time, and hav-

ing the money for this wouldn't be such an issue. Fundraising aside, mental health services are important enough to be state/government-funded.

Another step that can be taken is the steady normalization of mental health discussions. In society today as a whole mental health is a touchy topic. But with proper approach, these conversations can be normalized so that people are comfortable asking for help without being faced with stereotypes or fear of judgment. This can start with general annual assemblies about the topic and good coverage of the topic in classes. Even a unit in health classes or professionals coming in to speak with students on the subject for a few days can be beneficial.

In a lot of cases, a student will end their life and it will result in suicide clusters, or what is more commonly known as 'copycat suicides'. It's like a trigger that sets off a line of students attempting suicide after another student succeeds. If there is ever a situation in a community where someone ends their life, schoolwide mental health screenings are crucial. There are many non-profit organizations that offer screening kits that ultimately lower suicide rates. These kits usually include short, non-diagnostic screens for signs of depression and suicide that could even be beneficial as an annual subject. These are usually completely anonymous and encourage students to seek help.

Mental health issues are undoubtedly crucial in our youth today. There are several ways we as a country can improve the quality of mental health services in our schools for a brighter future for our generation.

THIRD PLACE, MAYA MARCY, LONG TRAIL SCHOOL, JUNIOR

For many, college is a liberating opportunity to further one's academic career and pursue a lifelong passion, as well as create a substantial base to obtain an income and begin life in adulthood. As well, with the increasingly competitive workforce, a college degree is almost mandatory to make a living wage. However, accessibility to attend a post-high school institution continues to prove difficult for not only marginalized groups, but also students coming from the middle class. This difficulty arises from the injustice embedded within the education system, a lack of government responsibility, and the senseless and excessive cost attributed to college in the present day.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, undergraduate enrollment in any post-secondary educational institution has increased from 53% to 94% in just the past 40 years. Accompanying the growth in attendance is the skyrocketing of tuition, a near 260% overall increase compared to a 120% average inflation consumer product increase, according to Business Insider. With this disparity in tuition cost vs. income, the difference has resulted in the form of \$1.5 trillion of student debt among more than 40 million Americans, as reported by TIME.

With this, why is so little of the federal budget set aside for such a vital part of our society? There is a simple solution. There is no reason, that in a time of peace, The United States should be spending upwards of \$690 billion per year on the military. According to the annual fiscal Department of Defense budget report, in the most recent proposal to Congress, President Donald Trump has introduced an almost 10% increase in military spending, increasing the budget to an astonishing \$750 billion. To put facts along with numbers, with a little over 10% of the entirety of the military spending budget—approximately \$80 billion—the United States could cover the cost of public 4-year college education for every aspiring student in the country. Putting this plan into action

would provide an opportunity for millions of deserving, hardworking students.

The opportunity to obtain an education is one that many in the United States take for granted. We are fortunate enough in the United States to have many of the most distinguished Universities, programs, and professors in the world. However, the inability to acknowledge and tackle the underlying factors of how economic disparity affects the education system remains apparent. Too often marginalized groups are kept from succeeding in comparison to their privileged peers. Wealth and the quality of schooling have collided for too long. Every young adult has the right to a deserving and fulfilling academic career, regardless of their upbringing. We must realize now that the only way to fix the education system is to approach it as an economic matter. From then on, we will achieve equity and prosperity through the American college system.●

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4772. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "1-Aminocyclopropane-1-carboxylic Acid (ACC); Temporary Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10009-44-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4773. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bacillus thuringiensis Cry 14Ab-1 Protein in Soybean; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 10008-72-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4774. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oxathiapiprolin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10009-93-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4775. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Indaziflam; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10008-92-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4776. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Gasoline Vapor Recovery Requirements" (FRL No. 10009-52-Region 2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4777. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; California; Ventura County; 8-

Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area Requirements" (FRL No. 10009-22-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4778. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Virginia; Emission Standards for Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills" (FRL No. 10004-07-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4779. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality State Implementation Plans; State of Utah; Revisions to the Utah Division of Administrative Rules; R307-101-3" (FRL No. 10010-35-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4780. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; North Dakota; Revisions to Permitting Rules" (FRL No. 10010-33-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4781. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Infrastructure Requirements for the 2010 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard" (FRL No. 10009-54-Region 3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4782. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Quality State Implementation Plans; Approvals and Promulgations; Montana; Columbia Falls, Kalispell and Libby PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request" (FRL No. 10010-18-Region 8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4783. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Second Maintenance Plans for 1997 Ozone NAAQS; Door County, Kewaunee County, Manitowoc County, and Milwaukee-Racine Area" (FRL No. 10009-87-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4784. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule" (FRL No. 10009-80-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4785. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management

Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tobacco Products; Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements; Delayed Effective Date" (RIN0910-AI39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4786. A communication from the Director of Regulations and Policy Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Silicon Dioxide" (Docket No. FDA-2019-F-3911) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4787. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4788. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits" (29 CFR Part 4022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4789. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patent Term Adjustment Reductions in View of the Federal Circuit Decision in Supernus Pharm., Inc. v. Iancu" (RIN0651-AD38) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2020; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4790. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Demurrage Billing Requirements" (RIN2140-AB47) (Docket No. EP 759) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4791. A communication from the Chairman of the Office of Proceedings, Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Policy Statement on Demurrage and Accessorial Rules and Charges" (Docket No. EP 757) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 20, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4792. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment to Section 73.3580 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Public Notice of the Filing of Applications; Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative, Revision of the Public Notice Requirements of Section 73.3580, Second Report and Order" (FCC 20-65) (MB Docket Nos. 17-264, 17-105, 05-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 19, 2020; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4793. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to