

on their health care. For over two years, the Office of Surgeon General has been vacant. It is irresponsible to put partisanship ahead of public health and safety.

Dr. Satcher is an excellent choice to be the Nation's Doctor. I look forward to working closely with him, and I urge the Senate to move expeditiously to approve this nomination, so that we can deal more effectively with the country's important health challenges. I am confident that Dr. Satcher will serve America well. He deserves to be confirmed now, before this session of Congress ends.●

DRUG DIRECTOR USE OF BIDEN DRUG BUDGET CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

● Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to offer some remarks on Drug Director Barry McCaffrey's decision to decertify the Defense Department's proposed antidrug budget for fiscal 1999.

At the outset, let me state that I support General McCaffrey's decision to request that the Defense Department increase its budget request by \$140 million for the antidrug initiatives the General identifies: \$24 million to boost antidrug task forces on the border to help implement the United States-Mexico Declaration signed by Presidents Clinton and Zedillo in May, 1997; \$75 million for enforcement and interdiction to reduce the flow of cocaine out of the Andean Region; \$30 million for boost National Guard drug efforts on the southern border; and \$12 million to target drug trafficking criminal activity in the Caribbean.

Even beyond the specifics of this issue, I am greatly heartened by the fact that General McCaffrey has chosen to exercise this important budget-setting authority. I must admit that I have been frustrated that, until General McCaffrey acted, no drug director had ever used this authority—not William Bennett, not Robert Martinez, and not Lee Brown.

Let me also be up-front with my colleagues, one of the reasons I so strongly favor this decision is because I wrote this authority into law. For more than a decade, I debated with the Reagan administration and my colleagues to establish the Office of National Drug Control Policy. One of the reasons my legislation was so bitterly opposed for so long was because I put some real teeth into this legislation. And, of all the teeth, it is this budget authority which is the sharpest of all.

Let me also explain to my colleagues that this so-called Biden Drug Budget Authority not only gives the Drug Director the authority to decertify the drug budget requests of the drug agencies, but it is crystal clear what must happen next. Just read the law: If the Drug Director exercises this authority, "the head of the Department or Agency shall comply with such a request."

It does not get much clearer than that.

To make one more point—now before the Senate we have legislation to reauthorize the Drug Director's office. Yesterday, the Judiciary Committee reported the bipartisan Hatch-Biden reauthorization bill. A bill cosponsored by Senators THURMOND, COVERDELL, DEWINE and FEINSTEIN.

It is my hope that not only will the full Senate pass this legislation before we adjourn, but also that the leadership of the House reject the unproductive and partisan approach it adopted a few weeks ago and come onboard the bipartisan Hatch-Biden bill.

Nothing puts the need for a Drug Director in starker focus than General McCaffrey's action on the Defense Department drug budget. My colleagues should need no other example—though there are many others—to recognize the importance of having a Drug Director.

I urge my colleagues to support the General's decision on the Defense Department budget, and I urge my colleagues to take the concrete step it is within our power to do—pass the law to keep the Drug Office in place.

NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, decent, and affordable housing in healthy neighborhoods for all Americans remains a national goal and a serious challenge. One federal initiative that is an exemplar of good housing policy and a wise investment is the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation. Chartered by Congress in 1978 as a public, non-profit corporation, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation's purpose is to increase affordable housing and home ownership opportunities while revitalizing low and moderate income neighborhoods that are in decline. That purpose is carried out in partnership with 174 neighborhood based, non-profit organizations in 44 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. These organizations bring together neighborhood residents, local governments, and the business community to garner diverse resources to carry out neighborhood resident-generated housing and community development plans.

At least one measure of the effectiveness of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and its network of local partners is the kind of return gained on the investment. The federal appropriation to the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for fiscal year 1998 was \$60,000,000 which leveraged another \$500,000,000 in resources for housing and community development.

The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation is one of three components of an innovative model of federal-local and public-private partnerships. NeighborWorks® is the network of local non-profit organizations that carry out the development work in neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation provides grants and technical assistance to the

NeighborWorks® member organizations, and conducts extensive training for neighborhood residents and local organization staff. The third component is Neighborhood Housing Services of America, a national non-profit secondary market that provides financial services to the NeighborWorks® network.

Neighborhood reinvestment requires holistic thinking and action in multiple directions, but basic to neighborhood stability is housing. Preserving the aging housing stock in urban neighborhoods and maintaining housing affordability are key objectives of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and the NeighborWorks® network. Helping low and moderate income homeowners obtain financing and qualified contractors to rehabilitate their houses is a staple activity of NeighborWorks® member organizations. Rehabilitating existing homes on behalf of low and moderate income first-time home buyers adds new stakeholders to neighborhoods. Increasing the supply of affordable rental housing helps to further meet the housing needs of neighborhood residents.

Many of the NeighborWorks® member organizations are mutual housing associations, innovative experiments in an alternative form of home ownership that is proving to be very successful. Mutual housing is permanent housing that assures long term affordability and tenure for low and moderate income people in a housing system over which the residents have considerable control. Mutual housing development and units are owned by mutual housing associations. Residents do not directly buy or sell their units, but are represented on the association board of directors. As members of the association and based on their occupancy agreements, the residents in mutual housing are considered in most states to have a personal property ownership interest in the property. Affordability, protection from displacement, democratic participation in the management of the housing, and a resident stake in the sustained health of the neighborhood are all attributes of mutual housing living. Exploring diverse forms of housing, such as mutual housing associations, can help point the way to improving housing affordability for low income people.

A key feature of the success of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation and NeighborWorks® partnership is the training developed and conducted by the Neighborhood Reinvestment Training Institute. Residents, local organization board members, and local organization staff participate in extensive training in leadership development, engagement of residents in neighborhood organizations, conflict resolution, coalition building, organization management, resource development, and much more. This high quality training is replicated in many parts of the country and the lessons learned put to work in local communities.

We are seeing results in communities across the country. In my state of Massachusetts, the Twin Cities Community Development Corporation serves the cities of Fitchburg and Leominster. Terri Murray, the Twin Cities CDC Executive Director, says that "top down" neighborhood revitalization does not succeed and the training is invaluable to building strong resident led organizations. The turnaround they are experiencing in declining neighborhoods like the Cleghorn section of Fitchburg is attributed to a combination of the dedication of neighborhood residents, the marshaling of increased municipal services, and the leveraging of private and public grants and loans including federal HOME funds. Becoming a member of NeighborWorks® and thus a beneficiary of Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation resources has served to strengthen the capacity of the Twin Cities Community Development Corporation, supporting its housing rehabilitation, home ownership, and small business/micro-enterprise development programs.

The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation enjoys bipartisan support in the Senate. Along with its partners, the NeighborWorks® network, and Neighborhood Housing Services of America, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation is to be commended for its fine work.●

TRIBUTE TO BERNIE WHITEBEAR, WASHINGTON STATE CITIZEN OF THE DECADE

● Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, on October 31, 1997 Washington state Governor Gary Locke declared the month of October "Bernie Whitebear Month" and proclaimed Bernie Whitebear as a "Citizen of the Decade". I would like to join the Governor, and the whole state of Washington in paying tribute to Bernie Whitebear for his outstanding contributions to the Seattle metropolitan community, the urban Native American community, the state of Washington, and in fact the entire Pacific Northwest.

For 30 years, Bernie Whitebear has been a voice and representative of the needs and concerns of the urban Indian community in Seattle and surrounding areas. His commitment to the preservation and edification of Native American culture within a diverse urban environment has never wavered. He established the Minority Executive Director's Coalition of King County, participates in the Northwest Asian American Theater's annual community Show-Off, and through his United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, acts as the Executive Director of the Daybreak Star Cultural and Education Center in Discovery Park, a center he established.

In recent years, Bernie has been tireless in his pursuit of his next vision: the People's Lodge. The People's Lodge is the next phase of development for the United Indians of All Tribes Foun-

ation (United Indians) Indian Cultural Center (ICC) which includes the Daybreak Star Center. The United Indians is a well-established organization thanks to Bernie with over 20 years of service in Western Washington. The ICC mission, and Bernie's focus in life, is to improve the social, economic, and cultural well-being of Native Americans living in the metropolitan Seattle area. Bernie and United Indians run a variety of educational, community service, and cultural arts programs serving 4,000 clients and attracting 30,000 visitors a year. The People's Lodge will improve and expand United Indian's desire to preserve and enhance Indian heritage and educate people about Indian cultural diversity. The People's Lodge will include a permanent Hall of Ancestors exhibition, a multiple-use Potlatch House, and an exhibition gallery, the John Kauffman, Jr. Theater, a resource center, and the Sacred Circle of the American Indian Art.

The programs and activities envisioned by Bernie in the People's Lodge will be a great benefit to the greater Seattle community and the citizen's of Western Washington. The People's Lodge will create new jobs, serve as a new venue for sales and performances by artists of all kinds, and help preserve and advance the cultural heritage of Native Americans in this region. It has been my pleasure to work with Bernie in seeking federal support of this project. Bernie has been working diligently to secure an Economic Development Administration grant for the People's Lodge. I urge the EDA to give the grant proposal of United Indians for the People's Lodge their utmost consideration.

Bernie Whitebear is a true leader for Native Americans in Seattle and a genuine asset to our community in the greater Seattle area. I personally appreciate his efforts. It is always a pleasure to see Bernie's warm face and bright smile come into my office. Bernie truly is a Citizen of the Decade.●

HONORING NEW MEXICO MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

● Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, Veteran's Day is an appropriate occasion to honor those who have served our Nation so nobly. I'd like to take this occasion to offer special recognition to New Mexico's most distinguished veterans, our living Medal of Honor winners. Col. Robert Scott, who celebrates his 84th birthday this month, is a longtime resident of Santa Fe, NM, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic deeds during World War II. Cpl. Hiroshi Miyamura, from Gallup, NM, was honored for his bravery as an infantryman during the Korean war. Second Lt. Raymond Murphy, a resident of Albuquerque, served heroically with the U.S. Marine Corps during that conflict. Sgt. Louis Richard Rocco, also from Albuquerque, celebrating his 59th birthday this

month, received the Medal for his courageous deeds as a medic during the Vietnam war. New Mexico and the Nation are proud of these fine men and deeply grateful for their contributions to the freedom enjoyed by all Americans.

Since the birth of our Nation in 1776, 40 million American men and women have bravely sacrificed and served in defense of the freedoms that we enjoy, perhaps even sometimes take for granted. But our freedom isn't free, it was bought and paid for with the sacrifices of more than 1 million of those heroic servicemen and women who gave their lives for God and country. It was our first President who cautioned a young nation that, "If we desire peace, it must be known that we are at all times prepared for war."

Time and again in our 220-year history, our Nation's sons and daughters have been called upon to demonstrate that preparedness. Perhaps in no other war, however, was their resolve more tested than when our Nation struggled within itself during the Civil War. Early in that conflict, Iowa Senator James W. Grimes realized that soldiers needed not only leadership, they needed role models—heroes to look up to and emulate. To accomplish this, he introduced to this body, legislation authorizing a Medal of Honor for sailors and marines who distinguished themselves by their gallantry in action, in order to "promote the efficiency of the navy." Six months after President Lincoln authorized the Navy's Medal of Honor on December 21, 1861, he signed similar legislation introduced by Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson to establish a Medal of Honor for members of the U.S. Army.

Since it was established by the Senate and authorized by President Lincoln 136 years ago, the Medal of Honor has been awarded to only 3,408 veterans of military service. The "roll call" of heroes includes an 11-year-old Civil War naval cabin boy, an escaped slave, the sons of two Presidents, conscientious objectors, privates and generals, chaplains and medics, and members of the U.S. Senate. These heroes have come from every State in the Union, from all nationalities and ethnic backgrounds, and from all social and economic strata. Three other Medal of Honor winners hail from New Mexico—about whom we are equally proud; Richard Rocco, Raymond Murphy, and Hiroshi Miyamura. Each of these men, and all winners of this coveted award have one thing in common, an action of such remarkable heroism "above and beyond the call of duty at the risk of their own life", that their comrades in arms have called them "heroes."

World War I gave us 119 Medal of Honor heroes, men like Eddie Rickenbacker and Sgt. Alvin York. But when the armistice was signed concluding the "war to end all wars" at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, all America prayed that there would be no need to extend the honor of Medal of Honor recipient to future