With the help of assistive technology, children have received a more meaningful and challenging education; adults have undertaken rewarding careers; and senior citizens have continued to live independently in their own homes.

The Tech Act, as it is known, passed by Congress in 1988, has proven invaluable to the realization of these goals. Under this act, Utah has established an impressive assistive technology program. According to my fellow Utahn, Mr. Joe R. Wright, chairperson of the National Council on Independent Living Assistive Technology Task Force, the effectiveness of the Utah Assistive Technology Program lies in its ability to initiate and coordinate projects with all relevant Utah agencies—an integrated effort that transcends any one piece of federal legislation.

Prominent among its achievements is the creation of the Utah Center for Assistive Technology in Salt Lake City—a statewide resource center that provides invaluable assessments and demonstrations of applicable assistive technology devices to consumers. This center also provides people with informative guidance concerning available resources to acquire these services. While federal funds from the Tech Act were crucial to the center's creation, it is now fully funded by the state. This is an excellent example of how Utah has been able to leverage a small amount of federal funding.

Mr. President, we must make sure that the Tech Act is reauthorized. While this act has already enhanced the lives of many Americans, a great need still exists. We must do more. It seems clear that the need for assistive technology in the coming years will increase as America's population ages. Moreover, we must take full advantage of scientific and technological advances that can be applied to persons with disabilities.

Congress will have the opportunity this year to continue a modest federal effort to empower individuals with disabilities to learn, to work, and to prosper. I hope that all my colleagues will support this program.

HONORING THE WRIGHTS ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, families are the cornerstone of America. Individuals from strong families contribute to the society. In an era when nearly half of all couples married today will see their union dissolve into divorce, I believe it is both instructive and important to honor those who have taken the commitment of "till death we do part" seriously, demonstrating successfully the timeless principles of love, honor, and fidelity. These characteristics make our country strong.

For these important reasons, I rise today to honor Lonnie and Regina Wright of Goshen, Arkansas, who on August 4, 1998, will celebrate their 50th...
wedding anniversary. My wife, Janet, and I look forward to the day we can celebrate a similar milestone. The Wrights' commitment to the principles and values of their marriage deserves to be saluted and recognized.

RECOGNITION OF ACHIEVEMENT
Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I rise today to extend appreciation to Arsalan Iftikhar for his service as an intern in my office during the Spring of 1998. Arsalan set the highest standard of excellence on a project undertaken by my Operations Team.

Since I was elected in 1994, my staff and I have made an oath of service, commitment, and dedication. We dedicate ourselves to quality service. America's future will be determined by the character and productivity of our people. In this respect, we seek to lead by our example. We strive to lead with humility and honesty, and to work with energy and spirit. Our standard of productivity is accuracy, courtesy, efficiency, integrity, validity, and timeliness.

Arsalan has not only achieved this standard, he set a new standard on the project he was given. He exemplified a competitive level of work while maintaining a cooperative spirit. His performance truly was inspiring to my entire office. It is with much appreciation that I recognize Arsalan's contribution to me and my staff in our effort to fulfill our office pledge and to serve all people by whose consent we govern.

COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT LEGISLATION
Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Senator COATS, the Chairman of the Labor Committee's Subcommittee on Children and Families, for the excellent work he has performed in drafting legislation to authorize the Community Services Block Grant, which recently passed in the Senate. The CSBG program is intended to fight poverty and alleviate its effects on people and their communities. Through these block grants, federal money is given to the states and local communities to create programs that help low-income people secure employment, get an adequate education, make better use of their available income, obtain and maintain adequate housing, and ultimately achieve self-sufficiency.

These block grants free states and local communities of federal red tape and give them the flexibility they desire to initiate programs that meet the needs of people who need help. As a former governor, I learned that state and local governments are far more effective in serving local communities than Washington's bureaucracy.

Further, Community Services Block Grants provide opportunities for the government to partner with the non-governmental sector to provide a variety of services to the poor. I am grateful that Senator Coats has led a bipartisan effort in this reauthorization bill language that can expand the opportunities for charitable and faith-based organizations to serve their communities with CSBG funds. The provisions included will help faith-based organizations to maintain their religious character and integrity when providing social services with government funds.

For years, America's charities and churches have been transforming shattered lives and meeting the needs of people—by instilling hope and values which help change behavior and attitudes. As a matter of sound public policy, we in Congress need to find ways to allow these successful organizations to unleash the cultural remedy that our society so desperately needs. Senator COATS' legislation reauthorizing the Community Services Block Grant will help to further this goal.

The language in this bill regarding charitable and faith-based providers is similar to my Charitable Choice provision contained in the welfare reform law which we passed two years ago, but it does contain some differences. For non-governmental organizations wishing to participate in both the Community Service Block Grant and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs, the differences between the two provisions may cause some confusion and lead to additional administrative burdens.

This situation demonstrates the need to pass legislation that applies the same Charitable Choice language to all federally funded social service programs in which the government is authorized to use nongovernmental organizations to provide services to beneficiaries. Under my Charitable Choice Expansion Act, which I introduced in May of this year, uniform protections and guidelines would apply to faith-based entities using federal dollars to provide housing, substance abuse prevention and treatment, juvenile services, seniors services, abstinence education, and child welfare services, as well as services under the Community Development Block Grant, the Social Services Block Grant, and of course, the Community Services Block Grant. One uniform Charitable Choice provision will certainly make it easier for both the government and faith-based organizations to work together more efficiently to help our nation's needy.

Again, I thank Senator COATS and all the members of the Labor Committee, as well as their staff, for their hard work on this legislation. I commend them for their decision to include provisions that invite the greater participation of charitable and faith-based providers in the Community Services Block Grant program. I hope that their efforts in the Senate will continue working together to pursue legislative proposals that encourage successful non-governmental organizations to expand their life-transforming programs to serve our nation's poor and needy.

NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND SENATE RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY
Mr. BIDEN. Thank you, Mr. President.

It is a truism that despite the end of the Cold War, we live in a dangerous world. The ultimate danger we face, and I believe it is the ultimate danger we have ever faced, is nuclear war. The arms race of the Cold War, we live in a dangerous world. The ultimate danger we face, and I believe it is the ultimate danger we have ever faced, is nuclear war. The arms race that this body can implement:

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We must undertake a range of activities to reduce that danger. There is no silver bullet. No single initiative will rid the world of the threat of nuclear cataclysm at the hands of a new or unstable nuclear power.

Rather, we need a coherent strategy with many elements—a strategy designed to reduce both the supply of nuclear weapons technology to would-be nuclear powers and the regional tensions that fuel their demand for those weapons. I would like to spend a few minutes today talking about one piece of that strategy that this body can implement: We can and should give our advice and consent to ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. And we should do that quickly.

In her speech on the 35th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's American University speech, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright called for U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty. Noting the recent Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests, she said that ratification was needed "now, more than ever."