

through enlightened investments in people and relationships. And it will depend upon our devotion to movements exemplified by the Fulbright Program and the Rhodes Trust that reach out to the world with both pride and humility.

#### SOMALIA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I wish to express my deep concern regarding recent news reports about piracy off the coast of Somalia. As we all know, Somalia has been without a central, recognized government for well over a decade. It has been over 3 years since I chaired a series of hearings in the Foreign Relations African Affairs Subcommittee on weak and failing states in Africa, one of which focused on the dire situation in Somalia and inadequate U.S. policy there. Years later, U.S. policy is still stagnant, I am sorry to report, and the danger persists, as these news reports indicate. The time is long overdue for the U.S. to make a long-term commitment to addressing this potential trouble spot.

I have consistently urged the Administration to be vigilant in focusing on weak states as part of the global fight against terrorism. All the characteristics of some of Africa's weakest states—manifestations of lawlessness such as piracy, illicit air transport networks, and traffic in arms and gemstones and people—can make the region attractive to terrorists and international criminals. Regrettably, Somalia is still not on the administration's radar.

According to recent press reports, pirates off the coast of Somalia are building strength and growing comfortable in expanding their attacks. Despite a lull in pirate attacks over the last 2 years, in just the last 6 months there have been 25 attacks off the coast of Somalia, according to the International Maritime Bureau. Attacks are no longer confined to the coast but reportedly include raids on ships hundreds of miles from the coast of the Indian Ocean. The resources and the audacity of the pirates appear to be growing. The attacks pose a tremendous threat to stability and economic development in the region, including neighboring countries such as Kenya and Djibouti that rely on maritime trade and tourism. The more organized the pirates become, and the more lucrative their crimes, the more we are faced with another potential front in the fight against terrorism, one involving a state-less network of some of the worst international actors.

The State Department 2004 report on counter terrorism in Africa states that the Somalia-based al-Ittihad al-Islami, AIAI, "has become highly factionalized and diffuse, and its membership is difficult to define" and that "some members are sympathetic to and maintain ties" with al-Qaida. State Department officials also acknowledge that AIAI is financing basic civil society needs in Somalia, including schools and basic

health care. The international community is failing to empower Somali civil society. Without our attention and support, how long do we expect this community to refuse basic human needs funded by terrorist organizations? And what are the consequences of groups like AIAI being perceived by the Somali people as generous benefactors? The U.S. must work harder at providing an alternative to such extremist influences in Somalia.

We can no longer insulate ourselves from weak states. We must engage. It is in our own national security interests that we work to strengthen institutions and empower civil society in weak and failing states in Africa in order to curtail opportunities for terrorists and other international criminals.

A multifaceted approach is necessary for the future of Somalia and for the future of our own campaign against terrorism. We cannot stand by as terrorist threats cross borders and destabilize the Horn of Africa. The international community must intensify its maritime vigilance. The U.S. long-term policy should include coordinating with regional actors in Africa and the international community to aid positive actors working in Somalia, build institutional capacity and legitimacy, promote national reconciliation, and sever community dependency on terrorist funding for basic services. These are difficult challenges, but Somalia is not hopeless. A transition government and opposing factions are requesting international mediation and attention. They are asking us to act, and we must answer the call, for their sake as well as ours.

#### CSBG

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, no one is more committed to the Community Services Block Grant than I am. The Community Services Block Grant program helps to strengthen communities through services for poor individuals and families, assisting these low-income individuals to become self-sufficient.

CSBG provides critical services to poor families throughout the country. Services offered by CSBG entities can help support these important social services programs such as: Head Start, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs, LIHEAP, weatherization, literacy and job training programs, child health care, after-school programs, housing and homeownership services, financial literacy and asset development, and food pantries and meal programs. In FY 2002, the 1,100 community action network served more than 13 million individuals in more than 4 million families nationwide.

Over the past few months, I have received dozens of letters from Community Action Agencies from across the country, thanking me for my efforts on behalf on the Community Services

Block Grant. I, along with Senator Chris Dodd, spearheaded a letter, signed by 56 of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats alike, urging Senate conferees to the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill to uphold the Senate funding level of \$637 million. I understand that the conference report on the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill includes \$637 million for CSBG.

I hope that the conference report on the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations bill will be enacted soon and that these vital resources will be directed to important services for low income individuals.

However, I cannot support the Harkin amendment because if that amendment passed, it would result in an interruption of funding not only for CSBG, but for all the social spending programs that low income individuals depend upon. That is not a responsible course of action.

We should not make support for CSBG a partisan issue—we should work together to enact the Labor/HHS/Education Appropriations Conference Report so that money can be appropriately directed to fund these important services.

#### COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I want to express my disappointment in the cuts that the conference report for H.R. 2862, the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2006, made to important grant programs that assist State and local law enforcement agencies. I voted in favor of H.R. 2862 because of the other important programs that it funds, but I have grave concerns about these particular grant funding cuts.

I believe that Congress, in partnership with States and local communities, has an obligation to provide the tools, technology, and training that our Nation's law enforcement officers need in order to protect our communities. I have consistently supported a number of Federal grant programs, including the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, Program, which is instrumental in providing funding to train new officers and provide crime-fighting technologies. I also have long supported funding for the Byrne Grant Program, which provides funding to help fight violent and drug-related crime, including support to multijurisdictional drug task forces, drug courts, drug education and prevention programs, and many other efforts to reduce drug abuse and prosecute drug offenders. I know how important these programs have been to Wisconsin law enforcement efforts, in particular with regard to fighting the spread of methamphetamine abuse. Both of these programs suffered major funding cuts in the conference report for H.R. 2682, which the Senate passed on November 16, 2005.

Funding for the COPS Program has been reduced dramatically in recent years. In fiscal year 2003 the COPS Program received \$929 million in Federal funding. In fiscal year 2004, that level was reduced to \$756 million, only to drop again in fiscal year 2005 to \$606 million. And now, for fiscal year 2006, the funding level has again been reduced to a mere \$487.3 million, a dramatic decrease just over the last 3 fiscal years. This is unacceptable. Funding for these grant programs has continually dropped even as the needs of law enforcement officers, our first responders, grow.

Funding cuts like the ones to the COPS Program have been mirrored in cuts to Byrne grants. For fiscal year 2006, the administration's budget proposal would have completely eliminated this critical law enforcement program in full. Congress rightly rejected the administration's unjustified attempt to entirely do away with this important program, but unfortunately the funding level provided this year is inadequate. In fiscal year 2003, Byrne and the local law enforcement block grants, which have now been merged into one program, received a total of \$900 million in Federal funding. By fiscal year 2005, that number was reduced to \$634 million. This year, the Byrne program will receive a meager \$416 million in Federal funding. It is irresponsible to habitually take the rug out from under our hard-working law enforcement officers by taking away their access to the funding they need to keep our communities across the country safe.

It is my hope that in the next fiscal year, the administration and Congress will work together to repair the damage done and increase critical funding to these and other programs that assist our State and local law enforcement officers on a daily basis.

#### THE KENNEDY CENTER HONORS TONY BENNETT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I welcome the opportunity to join in commending one of America's greatest artists who will receive a Kennedy Center Honors Award next month. Tony Bennett is renowned and revered by millions because of his extraordinary talent and outstanding musical career which spans a half century, and he will always be a part of America's musical legacy. His performances are part of our national songbook—tunes each of us know by heart and love to hear time and again.

His distinctive voice and inspiring interpretations have set the standard for musical artists across the years. His signature song, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," was released over 40 years ago, but it is as fresh today as it was in 1962, the year it won three Grammy awards.

His album "MTV Unplugged" captured the hearts of a new generation and was awarded a Grammy for Album

of the Year in 1994. It was also one of the most successful recordings in a career that includes countless other musical awards and achievements.

He has left his heart in communities far beyond San Francisco. Still today, he remains forever young at heart, as one of America's most beloved musical icons who continues to entertain us and enrich all our lives.

It is gratifying to know that his remarkable career will be recognized in the Honors Awards celebration at the Kennedy Center next month as a tribute to his enduring contributions to our national cultural heritage.

Countless lives have been touched by his artistry. This year at the Kennedy Center Honors, the country will have the opportunity to thank him for all that he has done so well for so long.

#### KENNEDY CENTER SALUTES ROBERT REDFORD

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, each year the Kennedy Center pays tribute to distinguished artists who have made extraordinary contributions to the American cultural experience. The Nation will be delighted to know that this year Robert Redford will receive one of these prestigious awards.

Mr. Redford exemplifies the record of achievement and accomplishment that define the Kennedy Center Honors Awards. With special grace and great talent, he has become a legend in film. His roles as an actor are among the most memorable ever on screen. He can be charming, as he was in *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, *The Sting*, and *Barefoot in the Park*. He can be serious, as he was in *The Candidate* and *All the President's Men*. And he is always compelling—never more so than in *The Great Gatsby* and *A River Runs Through It*.

Mr. Redford is equally accomplished as a director and producer. But whether he stars, directs, or produces—and sometimes all three—a Redford project is always remarkable for its integrity, beauty, and power.

In 2003, he was in Washington to deliver the annual Nancy Hanks Lecture on the role of the arts in public policy. This lecture is a tribute to the memory of Nancy Hanks, who served as the early chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, and Mr. Redford's lecture was especially fitting, because he believes so deeply in the fundamental importance of the arts in our public policy.

His passionate belief in arts education has been a continuing part of his outstanding career. He founded the Sundance Institute as part of his lifelong commitment to expand opportunities for new works and new artists to ensure a vigorous American cultural legacy for future generations.

I commend all that he has accomplished. It is a privilege to join in congratulating him on this well-deserved award from the Kennedy Center. I am sure my brother would be proud of him.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, on roll-call vote No. 347, I was recorded as not voting. It was my intention to vote "yea."

#### TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE EXTENSION ACT

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, this week the Senate Banking Committee reported out S. 467, the Terrorism Risk Insurance Extension Act of 2005 which will extend for 2 years the terrorism risk insurance program that is due to expire on December 31. I suspect the insurance industry is breathing a collective sigh of relief that this bill has finally passed in the Senate. All Americans concerned about economic growth should also feel some relief.

This bill represents a compromise between the very strong views of the administration and the approach originally set forth in the bill as introduced. I must commend Senators DODD and BENNETT and their staffs for their tireless work on this legislation, as well as Chairman SHELBY and Ranking Member SARBANES. I understand that getting to this point was not without its challenges. Nevertheless, we arrived at a bipartisan compromise.

There are still some who believe that we do not need a terrorism insurance program with a Federal backstop; that the capacity of the industry to provide this insurance has improved, and the program has achieved its goals. Frankly, I am not convinced. Because of the random and unpredictable nature of terrorism, I am not yet convinced that the private sector can adequately or accurately assess terrorism risk in the absence of a Federal backstop.

It has been 4 years since the September 11 attacks that prompted the passage of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act. And while we have been fortunate here in the United States that no events have triggered the use of this Federal backstop, the bombings in London this summer, the Madrid train bombing last year, the nightclub bombing in Bali in 2002, and the alarming increase in suicide bombers in the Middle East serve as painful reminders of the reality of the ongoing war on terror, and the fact that attacks can happen anywhere at anytime.

Prior to September 11, the risk of terrorism was not a factor when insurers wrote policies. However, in the post-9/11 environment, the availability of affordable insurance for terrorism risks has become a necessity. The war on terror involves protecting our homeland and protecting our citizens. In light of the current environment, it would be both unrealistic and premature to conclude that a Federal backstop is no longer necessary. I think it was irresponsible for the administration to suggest that it is now appropriate to shift the burden of insuring against the risk of terrorist attacks solely to the private insurance market.