

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.