

to really booming commercial developments attracting gaming interests from all over the region and contributing mightily to the economy in north Louisiana.

I personally say many thanks to his family—his wife Mary Ruth Carter Waggoner, his two children, Carol and David, and his three grandchildren—for the contributions they made supporting a man through many careers in public service in Louisiana. David is a personal friend and I know him and his son, Peter, are mourning the loss of their father and grandfather. He was a man of tremendous faith. He made Louisiana proud. He served us with distinction and with honor. He will be remembered as a very distinguished and dignified leader for our State, particularly north Louisiana.

Joe Waggoner was a straightforward, straight-thinking man from Plain Dealing, LA. He was a graduate of Louisiana Tech University and was very proud of his alma mater and very proud to call Plain Dealing home. His leadership and friendship will be missed.

CHIP

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, in this Chamber, we passed the Children's Health Insurance Program and passed it by a big majority, passed it bipartisanship, when almost two dozen Republicans joined, I believe, all the Senate Democrats in passing a program that has worked for 10 years.

I was in the House of Representatives when we initially wrote the Children's Health Insurance Program. It was written by a Democratic President, with a Republican House and a Republican Senate. It has worked splendidly for the last 10 years. It has, in fact, provided health insurance for literally millions and millions of American middle-class families—families making a little bit too much to qualify for Medicaid but families either not earning quite enough to buy insurance or not working in a place that offers insurance at a decent, reasonable rate. We know the children who are in the Children's Health Insurance Program are sons and daughters of working parents—again, working parents overwhelmingly making between about \$20,000 and \$50,000 a year.

The Senate passed the Children's Health Insurance Program expansion, which would have meant, in addition to the 6.6 million children in our country receiving health insurance under the Children's Health Insurance Program today, it would have added about another 4 million American children. About 200,000 children in my State—from Ashtabula to Hamilton, from Wauseon to Marietta—now receive coverage under the Children's Health Insurance Program. This would have added tens of thousands more to the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Unfortunately, a couple weeks ago, the President of the United States de-

cidated to veto this legislation even though it passed with more than four dozen Republican votes in the House joining almost every Democrat and passed with almost two dozen Republican votes in the Senate.

I wish the President, before he vetoed this legislation, had done what a lot of us did. I know the Presiding Officer from Missouri has done this. So many of us have talked to families in our States. I have talked to families in Lima and in Canfield and in Columbus and in Dublin and in Springfield about what the Children's Health Insurance Program means to them.

Eleven-year-old Tanner Stainbrook of Toledo has cystic fibrosis. Both of his parents work. They are playing by the rules, working hard, and paying their taxes. But without CHIP, without the Children's Health Insurance Program, Tanner cannot get the care he needs.

Seth Novak is a 3-year-old boy who lives in Lebanon, OH, down in the southwest corner of the State near Cincinnati. Seth has Down's syndrome and needs the Children's Health Insurance Program to help him stay healthy. Again, his parents are working, but they simply cannot get the insurance, in part, as with many of these children, because of a preexisting condition and also because of the finances the family faces and the lack of health coverage.

Emily Danko of Columbus also has Down's syndrome. Without CHIP, Emily has no health insurance.

I wish the President had talked to the Stainbrook family and the Novak family and the Danko family and talked to them about their situations. I am not sure he would have vetoed this bill if he had done that.

Unfortunately, the President made the decision to veto this bill. When he did, he mentioned several things. I would like to briefly touch on what he said and what the truth really is.

The President of the United States said this will result in all kinds of families shifting their children from private health insurance to Government health insurance. Were it so that all those families he talks about had private health insurance—if they all had private health insurance—we would not be concerned about this Children's Health Insurance Program. But the fact is, most of these families—the overwhelming majority of these families—who will be on this Children's Health Insurance Program expansion are not getting private insurance or they are getting very inadequate private insurance.

The President said families making up to \$80,000 a year could get this insurance. That is patently untrue. If a State wants to do that, they have to apply to the Federal Government, and the President has already said no to the State of New York. He could say no to other States. So that is clearly, simply not true.

The President also said the Children's Health Insurance Program is

just too expensive—a \$7 billion-a-year increase over the next 5 years; \$7 billion a year to insure 4 million children a year; \$7 billion a year contrasted with what we spend on the war in Iraq: \$2.5 billion a week; \$7 billion a year for 4 million children versus \$2.5 billion and climbing per week for a war we never should have been in, a civil war the President continues to immerse our Nation in, with no plan to end.

The last thing the President said is this program is socialized medicine, that we are going down the path of socialized medicine. The President forgets to say he and many Members of Congress get health care from Bethesda—go out to Bethesda and get their health care, with Government doctors taking care of Members of Congress and the President.

The President also forgets to mention that when he calls it socialized medicine, that, in fact, this legislation was supported bipartisanship 10 years ago in a Republican House, Republican Senate, and with a Democratic President—hardly socialized medicine supported by that many conservative Republicans back then and today. This legislation is supported by 68 Senators, including 18 Republicans; is supported by 43 Governors, including 16 Republicans; is supported by more than 270 organizations, representing millions of Americans.

The beauty of this legislation is for 10 years it has worked for America's children. And 6.6 million children have insurance today because of the Children's Health Insurance Program. We can expand this program at the cost of about \$3.50 a day to cover a child through the Children's Health Insurance Program, and do that for 4 million children. It makes sense for our children, it makes sense for our communities, and it makes sense for our country.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE GEORGE SANGMEISTER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a great man, Representative George Sangmeister, a great servant of Illinois who passed away on October 9.

George served Illinois in more ways than anyone I know; his was a lifetime of dedicated public work, and honesty. I had the good fortune to work as a staff lawyer in the Illinois State Senate when George was serving there. He was kind and determined, and these traits have shown through his work, his family life, and his long battle with leukemia.

Not surprisingly, George came from a family of dedicated Illinoisans. His father was mayor of Frankfort from 1923 to 1955 and a great political influence on his son. George attended Joliet Junior College before entering the military to serve in the Korean war. He was always proud of his service, and it informed many of his initiatives. He always took time to pay tribute to our warriors and veterans.