

day to sound an alarm about the misguided and potentially dangerous decision to outsource a major piece of our aerospace industry to Europe.

I have talked about the dismay Boeing workers felt in my home State of Washington when they learned the Pentagon had decided to award a contract to build the next generation of aerial refueling tankers not to Boeing but to a French company, Airbus.

I have talked about my shock that we would award Airbus this contract, given the EU's lengthy history of subsidizing these planes in order to create European, not American, jobs.

I have talked about the fact that Airbus is being less than open about how many U.S. jobs it will really create in this country.

All of these are reasons to be deeply troubled about this decision. But today I want to address yet another concern; that is, the ability to control our national security once we have effectively turned over control of our military capability and technology to a foreign government. This is an issue we all need to take a good hard look at.

America's global military strength is built on our ability to use military might anywhere in the world, at a moment's notice. Our aerial refueling tankers are the critical link that allows the U.S. Air Force to stretch across the globe. From Fairchild Air Force Base in my home State of Washington to the Far East, from Andrews to Baghdad, our bombers and our fighters can fly farther and faster because our tankers, which supply fuel in mid-air, are always there to support them.

Tankers, in fact, are so important to our military that Army GEN Hugh Shelton, who is the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, once said the motto of the tanker and airlift forces should be: "Try fighting without us."

Until now, the technology that powered these critical planes rested in the hands of Boeing and its American workforce, who have been building them for more than 50 years now.

Until now, our tankers have been built by manufacturers, by designers, and by engineers who have been able to pass on those skills and technology that 50 years of experience brings, and who are bound by law from selling that technology to countries that sponsor terrorism. Well, last Friday, that ended. Last Friday, the Air Force made a decision that will enable a company that is controlled by a foreign government to develop and share that technology. Are we going to look back on this decision and say this is the moment when we threw open the doors to our military technology? Are we going to allow our tankers, a linchpin of our national defense, to be the first domino to fall?

I have said this before. With one contract, we could wipe out what it has taken our Nation 50 years to build up: an experienced and exceptional aerospace industry. Once it is gone, we are not going to get it back. We will not

get it back. Once we lose the ability to produce military technology right here at home, we begin to lose control over our Nation's defense.

This decision effectively gives foreign governments control over aspects of our own national security. In this case, we are giving up control and \$40 billion to the European Aeronautical Defense and Space Company called EADS. That is the company that has made no secret of their desire to dismantle our American aerospace industry. In fact, this decision can be seen as a \$40 billion investment in the military research budget of EADS and Airbus.

So we are allowing Airbus to take over a cornerstone of our military technology, and we are actually paying them to do it. While that certainly doesn't make sense, the fact that this deal could allow Airbus to share American technology with whomever they please is just plain dangerous.

The Air Force's decision means that American tanker technology, which has been developed over the last 50 years, is now out on the free market, available to the highest bidder. Under American law, the law that Boeing has to abide by, they are prohibited from selling technology to countries that sponsor terrorism. In other words, we have control. We have control over where that technology goes right now. But EADS and Airbus don't have to follow those same restrictions. They have said so in the past, and they have demonstrated that they don't care about giving technology to terrorists. They only care about their bottom line.

In fact, back in 2005, EADS was caught trying to sell military helicopters to Iran. But if the company is so pro-American, as they are saying right now, why was it ignoring U.S. policy to isolate Iran? Well, the answer to that question was simple to EADS Representative Michel Tripier. When he was asked about this back in 2005, his response was:

As a European company, we are not supposed to take into account embargoes from the U.S.

Let me repeat that. Here is what he said:

As a European company, we are not supposed to take into account embargoes from the U.S.

In 2006, EADS, the parent company of Airbus, proved they meant it when they tried to sell transport and patrol planes to Venezuela. That is a circumvention of U.S. law.

What if in the years to come Airbus wants to sell their tanker technology to Pakistan, to China, or to Iran? I wish to remind my colleagues that Russia now owns 5 percent of EADS, and it is pushing for 10 percent more. The United Arab Emirates now controls 7.5 percent of EADS.

What the Air Force has done is extremely shortsighted. They have said it wasn't their responsibility to take our security or our industry into account. Well, I say to my colleagues: Then Congress has to. Congress has to. We need

to be more forward-looking than the Air Force was last Friday.

What happens in 20 years if EADS is controlled by countries that disagree with our policy on, say, Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East or around the globe? What if they decide to slow down production of tankers, to put us at a strategic disadvantage? Right now, we have no way to prevent that.

Where do we go from here? What other aspect of our military technology are we Americans willing to part with? Our aerial tankers are the backbone of our military strength. But what about our other critical military supplies? Are we going to outsource our tanks? Are we going to outsource our military satellites? What about the missiles that are currently made in Alabama? Are we going to outsource those? What about the equipment that has to be delivered constantly to our troops in the field? Are we going to outsource our meals ready to eat, our ammunition? I would not support that, and I know many of my colleagues wouldn't either.

So I am here to ask all of us: Where do we draw the line? The Air Force said it wasn't their job to consider the future of our national security and defense, but we as Senators have taken an oath to do that.

I urge all my colleagues to take pause and truly think about the consequences of this shortsighted contract. The American people and our national security are depending on it.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Missouri is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. BOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 2734 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BOND. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, our Republican friends are at it again—offering simplistic and unworkable proposals in response to complex immigration issues. Our immigration policies should not only be about security and our economy, but they should reflect our humanity, decency, and morality. We are a Nation of immigrants. Immigrants are devoted to hard work, their families, their faith, and to America.

Mr. President, 70,000 immigrants served honorably in our Armed Forces, and many have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those are the values that have built America and we should welcome them.

But you would never know it from the misplaced immigration priorities of my Republican colleagues. Rather than tackle the Nation's priorities, they continue to cater to the basest instincts of the far right fringe. For 7 years, Republicans have failed to fix

the broken immigration system, offering only divisive measures and empty rhetoric that subvert our values as a Nation of immigrants, undermine our national security, and leave American jobs unprotected.

It is time to get real. Approximately 12 million people are living in our country outside the system. That is more than the population of New York City. Illegal immigrants are here because there are jobs, and there are jobs because employers know they can get away with breaking the law and abusing illegal workers. The past 7 years should have taught the Republicans that deportation alone doesn't work.

Don't the Republicans get it? Deportation-only policies have failed spectacularly. Existing control efforts are unacceptably costly. We now spend over \$10 billion on border and interior enforcement, and the system is more dysfunctional and lawless than ever.

These expenditures barely scratch the surface of the true costs enacted by our current policies. Heavy-handed enforcement hurts U.S. citizens living in the border region. These communities bear the brunt of environmental degradation, noise and light pollution and surging border-area violence. In spite of these escalating costs, illegal immigration continues unchecked.

Even when Republicans are given the tools, they don't use them. Last year, the Bush administration prosecuted only four employers for hiring illegal immigrants. It is time to stop coddling employers who break our laws and undercut American workers. It is time to force bad actor employers to respect our immigration and labor laws, to provide fair wages, to offer decent working conditions, to value the rights and contributions of the workers they employ, including American workers. And it is time to punish those employers who don't.

Let it be known the Republican agenda isn't based on real solutions. Instead, they have been cynically using the immigration problem to stir up local resentment and fear. They have vilified and attacked immigrants, especially Latinos. First, they proposed to criminalize priests and those who help immigrants. Remember the bill that passed the House of Representatives under the Republican leadership that said you have situations where we have several million children who are American citizens; they have mothers who may be undocumented. Under their law, the mothers had to be deported. If a mother went and talked to a priest and asked: Where is my responsibility, to comply with the law or look after my child, if that priest were to suggest that her first responsibility was to look after that child, under the Republican law, that priest could have been indicted as an accessory after the fact. That was Cardinal Mahoney, the great cardinal from Los Angeles, who spoke out on this issue with such credibility and outrage. Then they opposed comprehensive immigration reform that we

had on the floor of the Senate. Two-thirds of the Democrats said yes; two-thirds of the Republicans said no. Now we have their proposal as introduced this week.

What do the Republicans have against immigrants?

When immigrants are abused, all Americans suffer. Employers can get away with depressing our wages, neglecting working conditions for all workers, immigrants, and citizens.

This isn't leadership and, sadly, it is not new. It is a continuation of a decades-old Republican strategy to scapegoat and marginalize vulnerable minority communities, to fan the flames of fear and divert attention away from their own inaction and failures.

The Republican leadership may not get it, but the American public does. Americans understand that reforming our immigration system is a complex challenge and requires a tough, fair and, above all, realistic solution. They know it is time for change and time to find a way forward.

We need to require the 12 million undocumented immigrants in this country to register with the Government and get legal. This includes payment of appropriate fees and fines, submitting to extensive security and background checks, learning English, and paying any U.S. taxes they owe. We need to deport those who have committed serious crimes or represent a threat to our national security; to implement border control that is well resourced, utilizes modern technology and is effective and humane at the same time; target and punish employers who flaunt the law by hiring those who are not authorized to work; assist States and local communities that are affected by high rates of immigration by helping to defray health, education, and criminal costs; and ensure that American workers are helped, not harmed, by U.S. immigration policy.

Instead of embracing these goals, the Republicans want to deny local communities funding for community policing because such communities recognize that earning the trust of immigrant communities helps to combat crime. They would condemn victims of domestic and sexual violence to a life of abuse, unable to come forward to report such crimes.

They want to force all American workers to prove their eligibility to work based on a database that is so flawed it will result in the denial of employment to millions of authorized workers, including American workers and American citizens. This in a time when workers are struggling to put food on the table, pay their bills, and hold onto their homes.

They want to subsidize sweetheart Government contracts with taxpayers' money to build exorbitantly expensive fences that have shown little promise in stopping illegal immigration, and they want to take property away from American landowners to build these fences. These ideas don't just hurt immigrants, they hurt Americans.

Senate Democrats have led an effort to fix our broken immigration system not once but twice. That legislation was pragmatic, recognizing it is impractical to deport 12 million illegal immigrants. That legislation recognized the Government must seize control of our immigration system and implement border enforcement that is both effective and humane, while aggressively going after and penalizing employers that knowingly break the law and profit off illegal immigrants. It also included a roadmap for future orderly immigration that would uphold American values, support the American economy, and ensure that immigration, first and foremost, serves the interests of Americans.

The majority of Republicans turned their backs on workable solutions. They chose instead to grandstand the issue and push a delusional "round 'em up and kick 'em out" agenda. And here they are again in this new political season playing the same old tired tune. This country deserves better.

I challenge my Republican colleagues to demonstrate the courage and fortitude it will take to pass legislation that is tough, effective, workable, and gives the American public what it deserves: an immigration system that serves the economic, social, and security needs of 21st century America. Anything less is a disgraceful insult to the American people.

#### CREDIT MARKET AND STUDENT LOANS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I wish to take a few moments to discuss a growing problem for students and families struggling to pay for college.

Americans are anxious about their economic futures. They are seeing volatile markets, disappearing jobs, home foreclosures, rising debt, and declining benefits. Now the crisis in the credit market, stemming from irresponsible lending practices in the mortgage industry, may impact their ability to secure student loans at fair rates so their children can go to the college of their choice.

We all know that student loans are critical for millions of students and parents trying to pay for college. In the last 20 years, as the cost of college has tripled, more and more students are relying on students loans to afford a college education.

In 1993, less than half of all graduates had to take out loans, but in 2004, nearly two-thirds had to take out loans to finance their education.

This chart shows how more students must take out loans to finance their education. In 1993, if you look at the students taking out loans, and then here in 2004, you can see that as the cost of college has risen and grant aid has not kept pace, more and more students have to turn to loans. This difference has made students borrowing in the private sector—in many instances at exorbitant rates. It is this area, in