

Nearly 1 million families in Illinois have at least one uninsured family member and 360,000 families making above \$50,000 have at least one uninsured family member. More and more Illinoisans are seeking community health centers as their medical home. Since 2000, Illinois community health centers have more than doubled the number of patients they serve—from less than 500,000 then to 1.1 million today. The needs in the community have only increased as the economy struggles—and the recovery package invests \$1.5 billion in community health centers. Illinois received more than \$20 million for more than 300 clinic sites around the state that are providing quality, affordable health care to anyone in need.

I have only scratched the surface of what we have accomplished in these past 100 days. Among the other steps we taken to address needs, specifically in Illinois: \$147 million for Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab; \$49 million for improvements to the EJ&E bridge near Morris, which is currently the biggest safety concern for ship traffic on the 300-mile-long Illinois River; \$20 million for the Rock Island Arsenal; more than \$6 million for the Great Lakes Naval Station; and more than \$6 million for continued work on the barrier project to prevent the spread of invasive species, including Asian Carp, in the Great Lakes.

This President and this Congress will continue to work to address the needs of our nation.

We have made important progress in these first 100 days. We still have a long way to go.

This President is invested in rebuilding this economy, restoring our diplomatic strength around the world, reforming our health care system and taking concrete steps to reduce global warming. We have only just begun.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RICHARD DEWATER

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of one of Oregon's finest young men, PFC Richard Dewater. A former resident of Grants Pass, OR, PFC Richard Dewater tragically lost his life on April 15 while on patrol in Afghanistan. PFC Richard Dewater will be flown back to Oregon and laid to rest in Roseberg National Cemetery.

Private First Class Dewater was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division based out of Fort Hood, TX. Private First Class Dewater was deployed to Afghanistan in July in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Just days before his death, Private First Class Dewater's brigade ambushed a Taliban unit near Korengal Valley.

Joining the U.S. Army was something Private First Class Dewater was extremely passionate about. Ever since Private First Class Dewater was a

young child he wanted to become a soldier. Private First Class Dewater loved the work he was doing and was very proud of his service in the military. He also enjoyed fishing and camping and considered Grants Pass, OR, to be his home. Private First Class Dewater was a devoted husband to his wife Valerie, whom he married in Topeka, KS, back in June 2008.

I offer my heartfelt prayers and condolences to Private First Class Dewater's wife Valerie, his family and friends. I am forever grateful for Private First Class Dewater's service and his dedication to our country. Private First Class Dewater was a courageous and selfless man and deserves to be remembered for his valiant service. I ask that my fellow Oregonians and all Americans join me in honoring PFC Richard Dewater and the sacrifice he and his family have made for our country.

SERGEANT LEROY O. WEBSTER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow that I rise today to honor a fallen soldier. SGT LeRoy Webster, a 28-year-old soldier from Hartley, Iowa, was fatally shot while on patrol on April 25, 2009 in Kirkuk, Iraq. LeRoy was serving with the B Battery, 3rd Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, TX. My prayers and condolences go out to his wife Jessica, daughters Natasha, Kaydence, and Jadyn, and his parents Donald and Crystal Webster.

LeRoy was deployed to Iraq in January. He had previously served in Afghanistan in 2004 and 2005 and in Baghdad, Iraq from October 2006 to January 2008.

An Iowa native, LeRoy was born in Spencer, IA, and graduated from Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn High School in 1999. His family has deep roots in Hartley, the community where LeRoy grew up and met his wife, who was his high school sweetheart.

LeRoy Webster was a decorated soldier, having earned numerous military awards, and he is remembered by friends as dedicated, good-natured, and an excellent father. His family said he was "proud to serve in the United States Army." LeRoy's sacrifice deserves the gratitude of the entire nation and is a reminder of the high cost of freedom. I express my deepest respect and admiration for this American hero.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

NOMINATION OF GOVERNOR KATHLEEN SEBELIUS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I strongly supported the confirmation of Governor Kathleen Sebelius to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

America needs strong and effective leadership in public health. That is true at all times but never more so than when the Nation faces a grave threat from a serious disease epidemic.

We face such a threat now from swine flu. The world has looked on with growing apprehension as cases of this deadly new illness appeared first in one nation, then in another, and another. Yesterday, Spain reported its first case. Today, New Zealand. Tomorrow, who knows where the epidemic will have spread.

In our own Nation, we have seen cases of swine flu in New York, California, Texas, Kansas, and Ohio. The disease will surely become more widespread before it abates.

That is why we need effective leadership at the helm of our public health agencies with the authority that only Senate approval can confer. To have delayed this vote would make no sense—the epidemic would grow and more cases would be reported. The Nation urgently needs Governor Sebelius' leadership at HHS in the fight against this deadly epidemic.

Governor Sebelius will face other important challenges as well. None of these is more pressing or more urgent than the need to reform America's broken health care system.

Today we stand at a historic crossroads in health care in America. The United States spends more than \$2 trillion a year on health care, accounting for roughly one-sixth of our entire economy. We spend more per person on health care than any other country. Yet our health outcomes, as measured by key benchmarks like infant mortality and life expectancy, lag behind other developed countries. Nearly 47 million Americans are uninsured including over 8 million children and a disproportionate share of minorities. 25 million more of our citizens remain underinsured, and even those with insurance often receive substandard or inappropriate care. Our health care system cries out for reform, and now is the time.

Governor Sebelius has the experience, compassion and steady hand to take the helm of the Department of Health and Human Services and help lead our Nation toward high-quality, affordable health care for all. She has served the people in Kansas well for over 20 years as State legislator, as insurance commissioner and as Governor, and she has demonstrated deep knowledge of the problems plaguing our health care system, and the vision and skill to fix them. Time and time again she has reached across the aisle and achieved practical solutions that have resulted in tangible benefits to families and businesses.

She was asked by former Republican Governor Bill Graves to design and lead the Kansas Children's Health Insurance Program in 1998, and she led an expansion of coverage from 15,000 to over 51,000 children. As Governor, her Healthy Kansas Initiative has helped to contain runaway health care costs, streamline the bureaucracy, and make health insurance and prescription drugs more affordable for thousands of children, working parents and small