

It was one of those Saturday night games football fans live for. And before I say more about the Saints, I want to extend my congratulations to the University of Sioux Falls Cougars, which put up a heck of a fight, after a heck of a season.

But with last night's win, Carroll held a perfect season. They were undefeated every step of the way. And every step of the way, Montanans watched with pride as they showed us what it takes to work as a team. And to win.

Carroll's Fighting Saints are no stranger to making football history. This isn't the first year they have returned to Montana with a national trophy.

What does it take?

It takes hard work. Strong leadership—especially under Coach Mike Van Diest—and old-fashioned Montana grit.

Most importantly, it takes teamwork and trust. Place kicker Tom Yarekmo missed two field goals. But Coach Van Diest trusted Yarekmo to try again—and he made the winning field goal.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the team, the coaches and a whole lot of dedicated fans.

Their hard work and their victory is a warm reminder that hard work pays off.

We're already looking forward to next year.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### VOTE EXPLANATIONS

VOTE NO. 278

Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. President, had I been present on Saturday, December 18, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors DREAM Act:

"While sympathetic to those who passionately support it, I cannot support the DREAM Act; as is, at this time.

"I strongly believe the DREAM Act should require the completion of a degree. As currently written, the legislation does not. Requiring the completion of a degree is exactly what the DREAM Act should be about, as it will help ensure that the young people who qualify have a real chance to fulfill the American dream and become the productive citizens they aspire to be.

"In fact, I have had sincere discussions with my fellow Senators and committee staff as to whether it would be possible to change the legislation to address my concerns. At this time, it is not.

"All that being said, I do believe, as most Americans do, that our immigration system is broken and must be fixed. During the next session of Congress, I sincerely hope to work with my Republican and Democratic colleagues to achieve true comprehensive immigration reform."

VOTE NO. 279

Mr. President, had I been present to vote on Saturday, December 18, I would

have voted nay on the repeal of the military's don't ask, don't tell policy:

"Over the past several days, I have spoken with many passionate West Virginians who hold different views on this policy. I greatly appreciate all of the feedback that my office has received.

"As I have said before, my primary concern with repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," DADT, stems from the Armed Services Committee testimony by two Service Chiefs, Army Chief of Staff General George Casey and Marine Corps Commandant General James Amos. Their issues are with the timing and the impact of the repeal's implementation on our front line combat troops during a time of war.

"While it may be little solace to those who disagreed with my earlier vote, over the last 9 days, I have had sincere discussions with my fellow Senators and other officials as to whether it would be possible to change the legislation to address my concerns over timing and implementation. With the legislative process nearing an end, it was simply not possible to alter the proposed DADT legislation.

"As such, while I believe the DADT policy will be repealed, and probably should be repealed in the near future, I cannot support a repeal of the policy at this time."

#### FEDERAL FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY, Mr. President, earlier this week, Republican Members who had pledged to support the fiscal year 2011 Omnibus appropriations bill changed their minds and chose instead to walk in lockstep with the House and Senate Republican leaders who believe that freezing spending at the fiscal year 2010 level is good politics.

On the face of it that approach has an appeal to it—no new spending. What a nice sound bite. It makes everything seem so simple.

But while one Senator of the minority party gleefully remarked on the Senate floor "we won," it is worth taking a minute to consider what a continuing resolution means—not for the Republican Party but for the American people.

That it is a short-sighted abdication of Congress's responsibility over Federal funding almost goes without saying. But in fact it is worse than that.

The Senators who profess to care about the security of this country but refuse to put their money where their mouth is, bear responsibility for the consequences.

Every American family—yours and mine—knows that in a year's time our budget priorities and the necessities of our families change from the year before. So do the budget priorities of a diverse country of more than 300 million people in a rapidly changing and dangerous world.

Those who celebrated after defeating the Omnibus—a bill that is supported by a majority of Senators—are implic-

itly promoting the myth that priorities and circumstances do not change from one year to the next.

They would substitute the mindlessness of a copy machine for the judgment that the American people pay their representatives to use in making these decisions.

A robo budget is a disservice to the American people, to our national security, and to this Nation's needs and interests here at home. Yet that is the option we are left with.

What is our job here? Is it to rubberstamp what we did last year, despite different circumstances and the passage of a year's time? I won't speak for the chairs of the other Appropriations subcommittees.

They know the consequences of a continuing resolution for the programs in their jurisdictions better than I.

But as chairman of the Department of State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee, I can say unequivocally that freezing spending for global security programs—as we are about to do—will shortchange the American people—this generation and future generations, compromise the security of this country, and cost the lives of countless people in the world's poorest countries.

Contrary to what some of our friends in the minority seem not to fully appreciate, the United States is a global power. We have vital interests around the world, from the Korean Peninsula to Mexico, that are important to the lives and livelihoods of every American.

We are involved in two wars, with over 150,000 troops deployed in harm's way—wars that will not be won by military force alone.

Our economy is tied to the economies of countries far and wide. Our security depends on what happens thousands of miles from our shores, as much as it does at our borders.

Americans are traveling, working, studying and living in every country on Earth. We have diplomats and military personnel stationed on every continent.

Our environment, the health of our citizens, the security of our borders, and relations with our allies as well as our adversaries, are not static. Time does not stand still. It marches on, either with us or without us.

What the other party is saying is that while China and our other competitors aggressively expand their influence, the United States will pull back. While other countries become global markets, we will freeze our export promotion programs.

While international terrorism, transnational crime and corruption threaten American businesses and fragile democracies, including in our own hemisphere, we will retrench.

That is the vision of the minority. It is myopic. It is self-defeating. It pretends to help solve the deficit, when in fact it will have virtually no impact on the deficit. But it will weaken our influence around the world.