

Our highest priority is making sure students in schools across the country are protected. But I agree with the chairman that section 578 of the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, is not the right way to help schools effectively protect their students. As the Chairman already noted, the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act that occurred less than a year ago took a major step forward in protecting unsuspecting students and families from school employees suspected of abuse in previous positions. We incentivized schools and districts to report cases of suspected abuse to law enforcement and made it far more difficult for schools to quietly allow suspected abusers to seek employment in another State or school district. The amendment that provided those protections was adopted by a vote of 98-0.

While this was an important step forward, I continue to look for ways to build on it and continue our work making sure students are being protected most effectively. Unfortunately, rather than taking the important step of extending similar protections for students to schools operated by the Department of Defense, the bill instead overrides a comprehensive Department of Defense criminal background check regulation that provides strong new protections to students and is less than a year old. NDAA section 578 imposes a background check system with serious problems on DOD schools and then further extends that problematic background check system to non-Department of Defense schools all over the country.

Section 578 imposes a system of criminal background checks that prohibits people from working in any capacity in these schools if they have committed low-level offenses having nothing to do with violence or children. Unlike the laws in 29 States, as well as the new Department of Defense regulation, section 578 of the NDAA offers employees no way to demonstrate mitigating circumstances and requires that employees are terminated while appealing a finding, even though these records are often inaccurate or incomplete.

Section 578 is unnecessary, expensive, unfairly creates competing background check systems in States across the county and, most importantly, is not the right way to ensure our schools are safe. This provision is not within the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee, and I join the chairman in his position that it should not be included in the final bill.

Mr. President, I thank the Senator for engaging in the colloquy.

#### DACA 4-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to speak on this fourth anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, DACA, for all of the young men and young women it

has helped bring out of the shadows— young men and woman who came to this country as children and, because of DACA, have had the security of temporary deportation relief and work authorization so they could achieve their full potential as young Americans.

I celebrate DACA's anniversary with great pride and tremendous hope. For years, I pushed hard to make this program a reality.

I have spoken directly—and frankly—to the President many times about granting long-overdue administrative relief to DREAMers, who are Americans in every way except for a piece of paper.

And 4 years ago, with the tireless advocacy of DREAMers and the power of their individual stories, with the help of the immigrant community, community leaders in cities and towns across America, and countless Members of Congress, the President took action and changed the lives of thousands of young men and women, allowing them to fully contribute to the country they call home—the only country they have ever known. DACA recipients are part of our communities in all 50 States.

New Jersey ranks ninth in the Nation, with over 34,000 approved DACA applications. These young people have been granted the most important thing they could have: the peace of mind that comes with temporary protection from deportation and the ability to work and contribute.

Since its inception, DACA has harnessed their talents in measurable ways and is a success today because of the President's bold Executive actions in June of 2012. In an immigration system as flawed as ours, DACA has been a beacon of hope, one shining light leading the way toward fairness, justice, and a better life for so many immigrants looking for a chance to succeed in America as Americans.

The numbers tell the story. DACA has been granted to approximately 728,000 young immigrants. It has strengthened our economy. A survey by the National Immigration Law Center and the Center for American Progress found that after obtaining DACA, more than two-thirds of recipients were able to secure a job with higher pay and their wages rose by an average of 45 percent.

Higher wages are not just good for DACA recipients, but for all Americans; it stimulates economic growth and translates into more tax revenue.

DACA has allowed young Americans to open bank accounts, get a driver's license, go to college, and prepare for a stable, economically secure, and financially solvent future for themselves and their families.

There is no question in my mind—and the numbers prove it—that DACA has been a model of success, and that success has been shaped by the courageous young men and women who decided to come forward, register with the government, subject themselves to a background check, work hard, and

take advantage of every single opportunity that DACA provides.

These young men and women and their families represent who we are as a nation. They embody the spirit of American life, which has always been shaped by the hopes, dreams, and courage of those who have made this country their home.

In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, DACA allows these young people to live with dignity and without the fear of deportation—the fear of being separated from their families. Now, they are our newest college students, teachers, and small business owners.

So here we are—with the perspective of 4 years of DACA success, 4 years of dreams fulfilled, potential reached—and proof that all of America benefits when an undocumented individual steps out of the shadows—proof that, when we give people a chance, they can make it on their own ingenuity, skill, and hard work, and they will not only contribute to the economy, but to the strength of America.

With the lessons of 4 years of DACA, it should be clear that we need to build upon DACA's success, not turn our backs on extending fair opportunities to those who are willing to work hard for them.

For many, the dream began with DACA. For others, the dream remains only a dream, delayed because of the politically motivated lawsuit of *U.S. v. Texas*. A case which has blocked the President's more recent Executive actions, Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Legal Permanent Residents, DAPA, and expanded DACA from being implemented.

These new programs provide temporary relief from deportation and a work permit to parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent resident children and a larger group of DREAMers.

The case is currently before the Supreme Court, and we expect the Court to issue a decision this month.

I attended oral arguments on April 18 and remain hopeful that the Justices will see through the hate and the political theater, and that it will be clear that our Nation governs by its values, that we favor building bridges instead of walls.

And I am not alone in that hope. I was joined by 224 Members of Congress in filing an amicus brief outlining the legality and importance of implementing the President's DAPA and expanded DACA programs.

We felt the need to show our support for the President's actions while pushing back against the jingoism, isolationism, and xenophobia of those who insist on leaving millions of families, millions of parents of U.S. children stuck in the shadows.

With this case, the Supreme Court has an opportunity to do something positive: to provide temporary relief from deportation and a work permit to almost 4 million parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents.

It would allow the current DACA program to be expanded to benefit almost 300,000 more DREAMers. Combined, these programs would help almost 5 million immigrants waiting for a chance to come out of the shadows.

And we know, at the end of the day, when all is said and done, DAPA and expanded DACA have one dramatic impact that cannot be denied: They give young people and their parents the peace of mind every family deserves—to be able to build their lives together.

It is my sincere hope that the politics of what is happening in this lawsuit and with the immigration rhetoric in general will be abundantly clear to the Supreme Court and we will have a positive ruling that allows expanded DACA and DAPA to move forward, bring some order, and keep hard-working families together.

I believe the Supreme Court will agree that the President's Executive actions are within his legal authority, that they represent the very best of American values and a fundamental respect for family unity. This is a pivotal legal battle over what amounts to the basic humanity of American immigration policy. I am not exaggerating when I say that people's lives and families are at stake.

It is personal. I have spoken to police chiefs, teachers, religious leaders, moms and dads, and U.S. citizen children, and it is clear that these policies are just and humane to keep these families together.

Ultimately, the only way to fix our broken immigration system is for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration legislation. I will continue to fight for comprehensive immigration reform that will fix our Nation's broken immigration system once and for all, not just because it makes good economic sense, but because it is the right thing to do—because we are a nation of immigrants.

DACA's success should further encourage Congress to move forward, fortified by the conviction that comprehensive immigration reform is a fight worth fighting for.

But today I join my colleagues in commemorating DACA's anniversary as a day that marks 4 years of smart and successful policy, as a step in the right direction, and as a foundation upon which we can continue to build. The foundation that the Supreme Court should look to when ruling on DAPA and expanded DACA.

Let's work to extend the American Dream to all.

#### REMEMBERING MITCHELL WINEY

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, today, I wish to honor West Point Cadet Mitchell Winey of Chesterton, IN, who tragically passed away along with eight other soldiers during a military training accident at Fort Hood, Texas, on June 2. He was 21 years old.

Mitchell was everything a parent hopes for in a son. He was kind, hard-

working, and someone the community of Chesterton was proud to know. He was an honor roll student, captain of the soccer team, prom king, and class president for 4 years at Chesterton High School. Mitchell was a born leader, who lived his life in service to others. He was someone who inspired his friends and family to step outside of their comfort zones and try new things. He was also the friend who came home on leave and immediately visited a fellow student he used to tutor.

In 2013, I had the honor of nominating Mitchell for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, after he came to my office seeking to fulfill his dream of serving our country and becoming a West Point cadet. In his application for an academy nomination, Mitchell wrote, "Attending one of the United States' service academies will help me grow to be the best officer I could become. Through all the rigorous leadership, communication, and military training, any of the service academies would help me grow to not only be the best person I could be, but the best officer I could possibly be."

At West Point, Mitchell was an emerging leader in his class and a dedicated cadet. Mitchell personified the ideals and values of West Point—duty, honor, and country—as he pursued a major in engineering management and excelled both academically and athletically as a member of the Ski Patrol and founding member of the newly formed freestyle ski team.

The loss of Mitchell is felt by West Point, Chesterton, and the State of Indiana. He touched many lives and left an impact on all who knew him. Mitchell will be remembered not only for his selfless service but for his positive attitude, contagious smile, caring nature, love of life, as well as for the love he had for his family, friends, and our country.

Mitchell is survived and deeply missed by his parents, Tim and Margo Winey, and his sister, Paige Winey-Scheuer. His loss is felt by his fellow cadets, the entire Chesterton community, and all who had the pleasure of knowing Mitchell. Let us always remember and emulate the shining example this dedicated, modest young man set for us, and honor him for his commitment to serving his fellow citizens. May God welcome Mitchell home and shed his grace on his family, friends, and fellow cadets.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF CROYDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Croydon, NH, a wonderful community in Sullivan County that is celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding.

Croydon sits atop the plateaus between the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers. The charter of Croydon was

signed by Colonial Governor Benning Wentworth and witnessed by Theodore Atkinson on May 31, 1763. Named for a suburb of London, England, Croydon was incorporated and granted to 71 individuals.

In the spring of 1766, individuals hailing from Grafton, MA, made their way to Croydon to begin the settlement process. On June 10, 1766, the Chase family became the first family in Croydon. The first town meeting was held March 8, 1768, and since that time, the population has grown to include 764 residents as of the year 2010.

Known for its mountainous terrain, Croydon is home to many peaks and hills. Croydon Peak is the highest location in Sullivan County with an elevation of 2,756 feet, and it extends across the western portion of the town. Pine Hill lies in the eastern part. Due to Croydon's access to the Sugar River, the town is well-fertilized, which encouraged residents to become skilled in agriculture and raising cattle.

Croydon's most notable landmark is the "Little Red School," which is reported to be the longest continuously operated one-room schoolhouse since the late 1700s. Little Red first opened in 1794 and today is the schoolhouse for the third and fourth grade classes.

In the year of 2016, we join together to honor the 250th anniversary of Croydon. Croydon has contributed greatly to the State of New Hampshire. I am proud to salute its citizens and recognize their accomplishments, their love of country, and their spirit of independence.●

#### TRIBUTE TO DANIELLE TA'SHEENA FINN

• Ms. HEITKAMP. Mr. President, I want to congratulate Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn, a resident of the great State of North Dakota, on being crowned the 2016-2017 Miss Indian World.

The Miss Indian World competition is the largest and most prestigious cultural pageant for young Native women and was recently held during the Gathering of Nations Powwow at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Twenty-four contestants from across the United States and Canada were judged on public speaking, personal interview, talent presentation, traditional dance, and essay. Throughout the competition, contestants demonstrated an in-depth knowledge of their culture and tribal history. Danielle won "Best Public Speaking" and "Best Personal Interview." Her traditional talent was an explanation, song, and dance of the Lakota Penny Dress.

Danielle is the first tribal member from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to be crowned Miss Indian World. At 25 years old, she is a 3rd-year law student at Arizona State University and will graduate a semester early in December. Danielle also has a degree in criminal justice and a minor in international