

waits of more than 5 hours in order to cast their ballots in the March primary election. The cause of the delay was a decision by a local election official to massively cut the number of polling locations. In the 2008 primary, 400 polling places were available. In 2016, that number was slashed to a mere 60 locations. Prior to Shelby County, such a change would have been evaluated and likely challenged by the Justice Department in a preclearance review.

In Wisconsin, a newly implemented voter photo identification law led to challenges and confusion in the April primary. Press reports recently documented the story of one of the affected voters. Eddie Lee Holloway, Jr., moved from my home State of Illinois to Wisconsin in 2008 and was able to vote without any problems before the voter ID law went into effect. After the law was passed, Mr. Holloway went to a DMV in Milwaukee with an expired Illinois photo ID, his birth certificate, and his Social Security card to obtain a Wisconsin photo ID for voting. However, his application was rejected due to a clerical error on his birth certificate, which read “Eddie Junior Holloway.”

Mr. Holloway spent hundreds of dollars traveling to Illinois to try to fix this problem. In addition to the Milwaukee DMV, he visited the Vital Records System in Milwaukee, the Illinois Vital Records Division in Springfield, an Illinois DMV, and his high school in Decatur, IL—all in an attempt to obtain sufficient records for a Wisconsin voter ID. Ultimately, he was unsuccessful. Despite all of these efforts, Mr. Holloway was unable to vote in the April primary.

What is particularly infuriating about Mr. Holloway’s case is that Republicans in the Wisconsin State Legislature were hoping for exactly this type of outcome. The chief of staff to a leading Republican State senator in Wisconsin resigned last year after witnessing Republican legislators who were, “literally giddy” over the impact the new voter ID law would have on minority and student voters. In an interview with the *New York Times*, the former staffer said, “I remember when Republicans were the ones who helped Johnson pass the civil rights bill in the ‘60s.” Indeed, it was 51 years ago this year President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bipartisan Voting Rights Act into law—guaranteeing that the right to vote would not be restricted through clever schemes, like poll taxes and literacy tests, devised to keep African Americans from voting.

I wish that, 51 years after we enacted the Voting Rights Act, our society had reached a point where its protections were no longer necessary, but we clearly have not, and the Voting Rights Act is still very much needed today.

That is why Senator LEAHY, Senator COONS, and I introduced the Voting Rights Advancement Act last year. This legislation would restore the Voting Rights Act. It would ensure that

burdensome voting laws will be reviewed and, if found to be discriminatory, blocked before they go into effect.

I recently joined Senator LEAHY and our Democratic colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee in sending a letter to the chairman of the full committee and the chairman of the Constitution Subcommittee, urging them to hold a hearing on voting rights and the Voting Rights Advancement Act. Between 2007 and 2013, Senate Democrats held nine hearings to examine the issue of voting rights. In contrast, Republicans have not held a single hearing on voting rights since taking the majority in 2015.

This is disappointing. Voting rights has traditionally been a bipartisan issue. In 2006, Congress reauthorized the Voting Rights Act with an overwhelming bipartisan vote. Three hundred and ninety Members of the House and 98 Senators came together on a bipartisan basis to reauthorize the bill. Twenty-one hearings with more than 90 witnesses and a 15,000-page record illustrated to us that the Voting Rights Act was still very much needed. Three years ago, the Supreme Court ignored our efforts in Shelby County, but we can, and we must, come together once again to address voting rights.

Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER, a Republican from Wisconsin, has introduced legislation in the House to restore the Voting Rights Act. Earlier this year, he wrote an op-ed in the *New York Times*. He noted, “Ensuring that every eligible voter can cast a ballot without fear, deterrence and prejudice is a basic American right. I would rather lose my job than suppress votes to keep it.”

I urge my colleagues to listen to Congressman SENSENBRENNER and join us in our fight to restore the Voting Rights Act. It is time to bring the bipartisan Voting Rights Advancement Act to the floor and ensure that the Federal Government is once again able to fully protect the fundamental right to vote.

REMEMBERING KASIA BOBER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to note the passing earlier this month of a treasured member of Chicago’s Polish community, Kasia Bober, at the age of 80.

Back in August of 2005, I introduced a bill to grant honorary posthumous citizenship to Casimir Pulaski. I held a press conference in Chicago at the Polish Museum of America in front of a giant painting of Pulaski at the Battle of Savannah. Afterward, I sat down with leaders from the Polish community to discuss various issues. Kasia joined us for the meeting and brought those famous pierogi and other treats from her deli. I learned firsthand why some consider her the “Pierogi Queen” of Chicago.

Kasia’s story is like many immigrant stories in the great melting pot of Chi-

cago. She came to the United States in 1974 in search of a better life. At first, she lived with relatives and was separated from her three children who remained in Poland. But after years of hard work, she was finally able to reunite with her children and open her own deli. Kasia’s cooking quickly became a hit, especially her potato and cheese pierogi. Customers began to call from different States, which led to Kasia’s pierogi being available today in 26 States.

Kasia’s pierogi are so well known that at least three U.S. Presidents have eaten them while in Chicago. In an article that appeared in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, her granddaughter recalled that President George H.W. Bush dined on Kasia’s pierogi while visiting the Copernicus Center, President Bill Clinton had some at the Taste of Chicago, and President Barack Obama ate a few during a Sister Cities festival. Polish labor leader Lech Walesa also enjoyed Kasia’s cooking on a trip to Chicago.

It is quite the story for an immigrant who worked 7 days a week at multiple jobs while chasing her own American dream. Up until her passing, Kasia could still be found working at her namesake deli in Chicago’s Ukrainian Village neighborhood. Chicago’s “Pierogi Queen” may be gone, but she will not soon be forgotten.

I offer my condolences to Kasia’s daughters, Barbara Jakubowicz and Maria Kordas; her son, Christopher; her sisters, Janina and Jozia; her six grandchildren; and her great-grandchild.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS VANDEN BERK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to thank Thomas Vanden Berk for his extraordinary service to the city of Chicago. Tom has spent 40 years devoted to one cause: improving the lives of Chicago’s most vulnerable by working with children and families who have been abused, neglected, and traumatized. Earlier this year, Tom announced he would be retiring as chief executive officer of the Uhlich Children’s Advantage network, UCAN.

In 1987, when Tom joined UCAN, it was a small shelter housing 50 boys and girls, operating under a \$1.7 million budget and on the verge of closing. Under Tom’s direction, UCAN grew into a multifaceted and financially sound shelter focusing on child welfare programs, violence prevention, and strategies for combating gun violence. Today UCAN is a leading child welfare organization in Chicago with a new \$41 million campus providing a full continuum of over 30 programs, servicing more than 10,000 people every year.

Tom’s been the recipient of numerous awards, including the “Friend of Child” award from the Illinois Council on Training; Peace Leader Award from the Illinois Council for the Prevention of Violence; and the Council for Health