

“The area of climate change has a dramatic impact on national security. Rising sea levels, severe droughts, the melting of the polar caps, and devastating natural disasters all raise demand for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.” And he might have added, and threaten military bases, especially naval bases, all around the world.

Americans are experiencing that severe weather already, including record-breaking droughts in the South and Southwest and unprecedented tornadic activity in the South and the Midwest.

Severe weather manifestations of climate change have a direct impact on our armed services and national security. Secretary Panetta focused on the geopolitical risks of increased flooding, drought, famine, and hurricanes. These troubling events create new demands for humanitarian intervention but can also destabilize political regimes and enable the rise of extreme elements.

Congress may be fiddling while Texas and wildfire regions of the mountain west burn, but the armed services are responding aggressively to the threat of climate change.

The Navy is leading the effort to boost production of biofuels and to protect the military and taxpayers against rising oil prices. The Department of Defense consumes some 350,000 barrels of oil every day. Each \$10 increase in a barrel of oil costs our Department of Defense and the taxpayers \$1.3 billion every year. By creating a supply of biofuels, the Navy’s protecting taxpayer interests from volatile oil prices, while reducing greenhouse gas pollution associated with fossil fuels. The Navy also is reducing its own dependence on Middle Eastern oil, since it makes no sense for the DOD to be providing business to governments that support terrorism.

The Army and the Air Force have also made groundbreaking investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency, reducing global warming pollution while strengthening our national security posture. At Fort Detrick, for example, and other installations, the Army is deploying energy efficient retrofits and renewable energy generation to achieve net zero energy consumption, meaning that the bases produce as much energy as they consume. These efforts reduce global warming pollution and protect critical facilities from a cyberattack on the grid.

The Army’s implemented numerous energy savings performance contracts at other bases, including in my district at Fort Belvoir, to reduce energy consumption and associated greenhouse gas pollution. By reducing the \$24.5 billion every year that Federal agencies spend on electricity consumption, these efforts protect taxpayers.

In today’s fiscal climate, the Secretary of Defense is aware that the Federal Government needs to make better use of limited resources. He recognizes that investing in clean energy will reduce the Department of De-

fense’s oil dependence and lower its fuel costs to free up resources for other priorities and to reduce the burden on taxpayers.

I’m surprised by the resistance of a few Members who wrap themselves in the mantle of fiscal responsibility, even while opposing the Defense Department’s efforts to save money on energy costs.

□ 1010

The DOD’s success in this area is actually a model for other agencies to follow.

There used to be a bipartisan consensus here, and we should address the threats posed by climate change. John Warner, who served as the Secretary of the Navy in a Republican administration before serving as the Republican Senator from my home State of Virginia for 30 years, introduced the first bill to address global warming which came to the Senate floor. Since his retirement in 2008, he has been a leading advocate for reductions in global warming pollution in order to improve our national security. Sadly, the House Republican leadership would take America in the opposite direction by blocking the Clean Air Act enforcement of carbon pollution limits and by reversing energy efficiency standards for lights and appliances.

As the impacts of climate change become more apparent with each passing season, we should heed Secretary Panetta’s warning and take action to control the pollution, which endangers our warfighters abroad and threatens communities here at home.

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PANETTA WARNS CLIMATE CHANGE HAVING ‘DRAMATIC IMPACT’ ON NATIONAL SECURITY

(By Carlo Munoz)

Climate change has had a direct effect on national security, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said this week.

Panetta told an audience at the Environmental Defense Fund that climate change has raised the need for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, hitting national security in the process.

“The area of climate change has a dramatic impact on national security,” Panetta said. “Rising sea levels, severe droughts, the melting of the polar caps, the more frequent and devastating natural disasters all raise demand for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.”

Panetta spoke to the Environmental Defense Fund on Tuesday at an event honoring the Defense Department for advancing clean-energy initiatives.

In recent years, the Defense Department and the services have spearheaded a number of alternative-energy initiatives and seemingly embraced environmentally friendly practices on the battlefield.

President Obama effectively put the Pentagon at the forefront of an ambitious alternative energy strategy during the State of the Union speech in January. The Navy and Air Force have already spent billions to integrate biofuels into their fleets of fighter jets and warships.

Marine Corps combat units in Afghanistan are using mobile solar panels to recharge batteries for their night vision and communications in the field. Solar power is also helping to run a number of Marine Corps combat outposts in the country.

But the Pentagon’s adoption of environmentally sensitive practices was driven more by the department’s dire fiscal situation than politics, Panetta said on Tuesday. DOD spent roughly \$15 billion to fuel its fighters, tanks and ships in 2012, the Defense chief said. The Pentagon spends \$50 million on fuel each month to keep combat operations in Afghanistan going, Panetta added. As oil prices continue to skyrocket, the department “now [faces] a shortfall exceeding \$3 billion of higher-than-expected fuel costs this year,” according to Panetta.

In order to dig its way out of that financial hole, DOD has no choice but to look to alternative fuel technologies. Pentagon officials plan to invest more than \$1 billion into developing those technologies in fiscal 2013, he said. However, Republicans on Capitol Hill have taken issue with that decision, arguing the department will be sacrificing needed much-needed combat systems in favor of alternative energy work. In March, Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) claimed the Navy’s ongoing biofuels work was devolving into another “Solyndra situation.”

During a March 13 hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee, McCain compared the now-bankrupt solar-energy company, into which the White House sank \$535 million in loan guarantees, to Navy-led efforts in alternative energy. Rep. Randy Forbes (R-Va.), a member of the House Armed Services subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, took Navy Secretary Ray Mabus to task in February over the service’s plans. “Shouldn’t we refocus our priorities and make those things our priorities instead of advancing a biofuels market?” Forbes asked at the time. Before Mabus could respond, the Virginia Republican took a clear shot at the secretary: “You’re not the secretary of the Energy. You’re the secretary of the Navy.”

OFFERING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF JUNIOR SEAU, NFL GREAT AND SON OF AMERICAN SAMOA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with deep sympathy in order to offer my condolences to the family and friends of a beloved son, father, brother, uncle, leader, an NFL great, and a son of American Samoa, Junior Seau, whose life ended tragically on the morning of May 2, 2012, in Oceanside, California.

It is a very sad time for, not only the national sports world, but also for our Polynesian community. We have lost a Samoan brother who was an icon in football and a pioneer for many of our Polynesian sons who are in the National Football League. A beautiful life has come to a tragic end, yet we remember Junior as a young man full of life, a charismatic leader able to light up any room, a devoted son and father and community leader. We remember the strength of this unique individual, a true Samoan warrior.

Junior was born Tiaina Baul Seau, Jr., on January 19, 1969, in San Diego, California, to American Samoan parents Mr. Tiaina Seau, Sr., of the village of Aunu’u, and Mrs. Luisa Mauga Seau of the village of Aoa. After Junior was

born, the family returned to American Samoa where Junior grew up for several years before returning to the San Diego area.

Junior attended Oceanside High School where he lettered in football, basketball, as well as in track and field for the Oceanside Pirates. In football, he was a starter at linebacker and tight end, and received numerous awards for his achievements as a student athlete. In 1987, the year he graduated, Parade Magazine selected Seau to its high school all-American team. He was also named California Interscholastic Federation San Diego Section Defensive Player of the Year, All-North County, Avocado League Offensive Player of the Year, as well as being named to California's all-academic team, with a 3.6 grade point average. After graduating high school, Seau played for the University of Southern California Trojans from 1987 to 1990, and in 2009, would be inducted into the USC Hall of Fame.

In the 1990 NFL draft, Junior was drafted into the First Round and 5th Overall Pick by the San Diego Chargers. Seau immediately became the heart and soul of the Chargers' defense, earning the nickname "Tasmanian Devil" for his passion and explosive athletic skill on the field. In the locker room and on the field, Seau had an innate ability to motivate his teammates. He was named the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year in 1998 and 1999, and was voted the Chargers' Most Inspirational Player in 1997 and 2002. Junior played in 12 consecutive Pro Bowls from 1991 to 2002, the most of any player in the history of the Chargers, and he tied for the third longest streak ever in the NFL. He was also selected All-Pro six times in his career, and led the Chargers to their first ever Super Bowl appearance in 1995.

After 13 years in San Diego, Junior played 3 years for the Miami Dolphins where he received the Miami Dolphins' Don Shula Leadership Award for 2 consecutive years. After only 1 day of retirement in 2006, he answered the call by the New England Patriots, and became defensive co-captain during the Patriots' 18 0 season, which took the team to the Super Bowl in 2008. Junior finally retired in 2010, having played 20 seasons in the NFL and finishing with a career of 1,849 tackles, 56.5 sacks, 18 interceptions, three forced fumbles, and 21 pass deflections.

Junior Seau is widely acknowledged as one of the best linebackers in NFL history, but his passion and success in football was paralleled in his community involvement and in his work off the field.

In 1992, Junior established the Junior Seau Foundation, giving San Diego area youth ongoing support for programs that inspired them to face life's challenges with enthusiasm, hope and dignity. Since its inception, the foundation has distributed nearly \$4 million to organizations providing services to children and young adults, including

over \$800,000 in scholarships through the Scholars of Excellence program and over \$330,000 in Junior's "Shop with a Jock" program, which provides for underprivileged youth to shop alongside a professional college athlete for Christmas gifts for their families. In April 2007, The Wall Street Journal ranked the Junior Seau Foundation, as the 13th largest Professional Athlete Foundation based on assets.

As much as he was an outstanding football player, Junior will also be remembered as a humanitarian, as a supporter for those who needed help the most, as a dear friend, and as a motivational figure. He was a charismatic leader who could not walk into a room without having an effect on those around him. He was loved by everyone who knew him, and his magnetism both on and off the field impacted fans nationwide and any individual he encountered.

When one speaks of Samoans in the NFL, Mr. Speaker, Junior Seau is one of the first names that comes to mind. Junior was an ambassador for Asian and Pacific Americans, and through his success, he was able to broaden the public's understanding and appreciation of our Polynesian people.

Reaching the NFL is a dream of many young men, but Junior Seau gave young Samoan men an image of success in the league—something that they could aspire to.

In closing today, I would like to offer words of comfort to the Seau family, especially Mr. Tiaina Seau Sr. and Mrs. Luisa Seau, Junior's parents, as well as Junior's children, his siblings, and his extended family, or as we say in Samoan his aiga.

In the Book of Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 15 we are called to "rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." In all of Junior's amazing accomplishments throughout his life, we have rejoiced with the Seau family, sharing your joy. And now in this time of great sorrow, we stand with you, though with heavy hearts, sharing in your grief.

la manuia lau faigamalaga. (Have a blessed journey home), Junior.

THE KEEPING ALL STUDENTS SAFE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, last year, I reintroduced the Keeping All Students Safe Act, to protect children from abusive seclusion and restraint practices in school.

Two years ago, this legislation passed the House with bipartisan support. Unfortunately, it never became law, and the incidents of students who are being abused or inappropriately restrained while in school continue to occur. We cannot sit idly by. Congress must step up to the plate and protect our Nation's children. In recent months, we've been hearing more disturbing stories of students who are being dangerously restrained by teachers and staff while in school. In several

of these cases, students have suffered serious injuries or have even died as a result of their injuries.

In December, in Kentucky, 9-year-old Christopher Baker, who has autism, was stuffed into a duffel bag at school as punishment. In Connecticut, children have been afraid to go to school because they've heard other students screaming in small, windowless rooms. The students in these elementary schools refer to these rooms as "scream rooms."

In Texas, 10-year-old Lukas Hines, who suffers from seizures, dyslexia, and ADHD, was put in a choke hold while riding home on a Texas school bus. For 4 minutes, the school supervisor refused to release him into the care of his mother, and instead kept him in the dangerous choke hold.

Then, on April 18, at the Leake and Watts School in New York, 16-year-old Corey Foster was restrained by the school staff, who were trying to remove him from a basketball court. Witnesses reported that several staff members piled on top of him. Corey told the staff he could not breathe. Tragically, while he was being restrained, he went into cardiac arrest and died.

Corey's story is far too similar to a story I learned of several years ago. That was the story of Cedric, a 14-year-old in Texas. Cedric was restrained, facedown, with his teacher sitting on top of him. He yelled out that he couldn't breathe. Minutes later, Cedric died on the floor of his classroom.

□ 1020

Tragedies like Cory's and Cedric's need to stop. In March, the Department of Education released nationwide data showing that tens of thousands of children are subject to restraint and seclusion in school each year.

This map shows that 31 States have had reports of abusive incidents since the last time that we tried to enact the Keeping All Students Safe Act. No corner of the country is immune from abuse. It is widespread, and it has gone on far too long. This map shows that we need a nationally driven reform, because where States have enacted, students are still subject to the worst practices in these educational settings.

According to the report released last month, only 30 States have any meaningful protection for the use of seclusion and restraint in school. Only 18 States prohibit restraint that restricts breathing. Only 16 States limit the use of restraining to emergencies involving immediate risk or harm. Only 16 States ban the use of mechanical restraints. And only 24 States have any requirement that their parents be notified that their child was restrained or secluded in school. In fact, children can go to school day after day, be restrained, be secluded, be locked in dark rooms, kept in those rooms where they urinate on themselves, and their parents are never notified.

When parents are excluded from the information about their students,