

By Mr. BINGAMAN:

S. 1488. A bill to establish the Native American Entrepreneurs Program to provide \$3,000,000 in grants annually to qualified organizations to provide training and technical assistance to disadvantaged Native American entrepreneurs; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Native American Entrepreneurs Act of 2003. The purpose of this legislation is straightforward: it authorizes grants of \$3 million in 2004, \$4 million in 2005, and \$5 million in 2006 to qualified organizations to provide training and technical assistance to Native American entrepreneurs.

In my State of New Mexico and all across the country Native Americans still confront the problem of economic development, this in spite of the many efforts that have been made over time, both by Congress and by the tribes themselves. Over the last decade, some tribes have found a way to address this problem by focusing on the creation of gambling centers. But while these clearly have assisted many tribes, from where I sit this is at best a short- or medium-term solution that does not address the foremost issue at hand—that being how we help individual Native Americans acquire the business skills to become self-sufficient.

In the 106th Congress the Senate and the House passed legislation that created a program at the Small Business Administration that was designed to help disadvantaged individuals gain access to the technical training and funds. The bill—the Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs Act of 1999, or PRIME—was drafted by several Senators, myself included, who felt it was imperative to encourage investment in microentrepreneurial activities in the United States. The reason for the effort was simple: microenterprise was a proven mechanism for enabling individuals on the periphery to obtain the capital and technical training needed to start their own business and move up the economic ladder in their community. It was also a proven mechanism for creating jobs, alleviating poverty, and stimulating economic development. It deserved to be pushed to the forefront of our legislative efforts in the Senate.

Under the PRIME legislation, organizations that provide technical assistance and loans to Native American communities are eligible for grants. But while diversity in grant award are mandated under the legislation, specific amounts mandated for Native Americans are not. The legislation I am introducing today would change that. The legislation provides additional funding to the PRIME Act for organizations that work with Native Americans specifically. In other words, the funding does not negate the possibility that further funds be provided to Native Americans under PRIME, nor, because it is additional funds over and above current authorization levels,

does it cut into the funds that are now available to microenterprise organizations under PRIME. But it does ensure that organizations that serve only Native Americans get specific funding for their efforts.

I will be the first to admit that the authorization levels in this bill are modest, but they are feasible given the current budget environment. I will also admit that the bill carves out a small portion of the problem currently facing Native Americans, but I consider it to be a first step. I intend to address others problems in future legislation. The most important thing is that this bill, if enacted, will have an immediate and concrete impact in Native American communities in New Mexico and the rest of the country. I urge my colleagues to support it.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 204—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 9 THROUGH NOVEMBER 15, 2003, AS "NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK" TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REGARDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF VETERANS TO THE COUNTRY

Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BOND, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. CAMPBELL, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. COCHRAN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. INOUE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mr. LUGAR, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. MILLER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. REID, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SMITH, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 204

Whereas tens of millions of Americans have served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the past century;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Americans have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces during the past century;

Whereas the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by Americans;

Whereas the advent of the all-volunteer Armed Forces has resulted in a sharp decline in the number of individuals and families who have had any personal connection with the Armed Forces;

Whereas this reduction in familiarity with the Armed Forces has resulted in a marked decrease in the awareness by young people of the nature and importance of the accom-

plishments of those who have served in the Armed Forces, despite the current educational efforts of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations;

Whereas the system of civilian control of the Armed Forces makes it essential that the future leaders of the Nation understand the history of military action and the contributions and sacrifices of those who conduct such actions; and

Whereas, on November 6, 2002, President George W. Bush issued a proclamation urging all Americans to observe November 10 through November 16, 2002, as National Veterans Awareness Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, SECTION 1. NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the President should designate the week of November 9 through November 15, 2003, as "National Veterans Awareness Week".

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation—

(1) designating the week of November 9 through November 15, 2003, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" for the purpose of emphasizing educational efforts directed at elementary and secondary school students concerning the contributions and sacrifices of veterans; and

(2) calling on the people of the United States to observe National Veterans Awareness Week with appropriate educational activities.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today I have the honor of joining with 54 of my colleagues in submitting a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the week that includes Veterans' Day this year be designated as "National Veterans Awareness Week." This marks the fourth year in a row that I have submitted such a resolution, which has been adopted unanimously by the Senate on all previous occasions.

The purpose of National Veterans Awareness Week is to serve as a focus for educational programs designed to make students in elementary and secondary schools aware of the contributions of veterans and their importance in preserving American peace and prosperity. This goal takes on particular importance and immediacy this year as we find ourselves again with uniformed men and women in harm's way in foreign lands.

Why do we need such an educational effort? In a sense, this action has become necessary because we are victims of our own success with regard to the superior performance of our Armed Forces. The plain fact is that there are just fewer people around now who have had any connection with military service. For example, as a result of tremendous advances in military technology and the resultant productivity increases, our current Armed Forces now operate effectively with a personnel roster that is one-third less in size than just 15 years ago. In addition, the success of the all-volunteer career-oriented force has led to much lower turnover of personnel in today's military than in previous eras when conscription was in place. Finally, the number of veterans who served during previous

conflicts, such as World War II, when our military was many times larger than today, is inevitably declining.

The net result of these changes is that the percentage of the entire population that has served in the Armed Forces is dropping rapidly, a change that can be seen in all segments of society. Whereas during World War II it was extremely uncommon to find a family in America that did not have one of its members on active duty, now there are numerous families that include no military veterans at all. Even though the Iraqi war has been prominently discussed on television and in the newspapers, many of our children are much more preoccupied with the usual concerns of young people than with keeping up with the events of the day. As a consequence, many of our youth still have little or no connection with or knowledge about the important historical and ongoing role of men and women who have served in the military. This omission seems to have persisted despite ongoing educational efforts by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the veterans service organizations.

This lack of understanding about military veterans' important role in our society can have potentially serious repercussions. In our country, civilian control of the Armed Forces is the key tenet of military governance. A citizenry that is oblivious to the capabilities and limitations of the armed forces, and to its critical role throughout our history, can make decisions that have unexpected and unwanted consequences. Even more important, general recognition of the importance of those individual character traits that are essential for military success, such as patriotism, selflessness, sacrifice, and heroism, is vital to maintaining these key aspects of citizenship in the armed forces and even throughout the population at large.

The failure of our children to understand why a military is important, why our society continues to depend on it for ultimate survival, and why a successful military requires integrity and sacrifice, will have predictable consequences as these youngsters become of voting age. Even though military service is a responsibility that is no longer shared by a large segment of the population, as it has been in the past, knowledge of the contributions of those who have served in the Armed Forces is as important as it has ever been. To the extent that many of us will not have the opportunity to serve our country in uniform, we must still remain cognizant of our responsibility as citizens to fulfill the obligations we owe, both tangible and intangible, to those who do serve and who do sacrifice on our behalf.

The importance of this issue was brought home to me three years ago by Samuel I. Cashdollar, who was then a 13-year-old seventh grader at Lewes Middle School in Lewes, DE. Samuel won the Delaware VFW's Youth Essay

Contest that year with a powerful presentation titled "How Should We Honor America's Veterans?" Samuel's essay pointed out that we have Nurses' Week, Secretaries' Week, and Teachers' Week, to rightly emphasize the importance of these occupations, but the contributions of those in uniform tend to be overlooked. We don't want our children growing up to think that Veterans Day has simply become a synonym for department store sale, and we don't want to become a nation where more high school seniors recognize the name Britney Spears than the name Dwight Eisenhower.

National Veterans Awareness Week complements Veterans Day by focusing on education as well as commemoration, on the contributions of the many in addition to the heroism and service of the individual. National Veterans Awareness Week also presents an opportunity to remind ourselves of the contributions and sacrifices of those who have served in peacetime as well as in conflict; both groups work unending hours and spend long periods away from their families under conditions of great discomfort so that we all can live in a land of freedom and plenty.

Last year, my Resolution designating National Veterans Awareness Week had 55 cosponsors and was approved in the Senate by unanimous consent. Responding to that resolution, President Bush issued a proclamation urging our citizenry to observe National Veterans Awareness Week. I ask my colleagues to continue this trend of support for our veterans by endorsing this resolution again this year. Our children and our children's children will need to be well informed about what veterans have accomplished in order to make appropriate decisions as they confront the numerous worldwide challenges that they are sure to face in the future.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1410. Mr. BINGAMAN proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1386 proposed by Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DOMENICI, and Ms. STABENOW) to the bill S. 14, to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes.

SA 1411. Mr. MILLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 14, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1412. Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. THOMAS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. KYL, Mr. NELSON, of Nebraska, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. COLEMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 14, supra.

SA 1413. Mr. BINGAMAN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 14, supra.

SA 1414. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 14, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1415. Mr. INOUE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 14, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1416. Mr. FEINGOLD (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) submitted an amendment in-

tended to be proposed to amendment SA 1412 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. THOMAS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. KYL, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. COLEMAN) to the bill S. 14, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1417. Mr. DAYTON (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mrs. BOXER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1412 proposed by Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. THOMAS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. KYL, Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. TALENT, Mr. BUNNING, and Mr. COLEMAN) to the bill S. 14, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1418. Mr. BINGAMAN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 14, supra.

SA 1410. Mr. BINGAMAN proposed an amendment to amendment SA 1386 proposed by Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DOMENICI, and Ms. STABENOW) to the bill S. 14, to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 5, strike lines 14 through 18 and insert the following:

(C) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY TO AMEND PASSENGER AUTOMOBILE STANDARD.—Section 32902 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, or such other number as the Secretary prescribes under subsection (c)”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “The procedures of section 551” and all that follows and inserting the following: “The amendment shall be considered to be a major rule that is subject to chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code (relating to congressional review of agency rulemaking).”.

SA 1411. Mr. MILLER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 14, to enhance the energy security of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 260, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

SEC. 712. AVERAGE FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS FOR PICKUP TRUCKS

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32902(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting “(1)” after “AUTOMOBILES.—”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) The average fuel economy standard for pickup trucks manufactured by a manufacturer in a model year after model year 2005 shall be 20.7 miles per gallon. No average fuel economy standard prescribed under another provision of this section shall apply to pickup trucks.”.

(b) DEFINITION OF PICKUP TRUCK.—Section 32901(a) of such title is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(17) ‘pickup truck’ has the meaning given that term in regulations prescribed by the Secretary for the administration of this chapter, as such regulations are in effect on January 1, 2003, except that such term shall also include any additional vehicle that the Secretary defines as a pickup truck in regulations prescribed for the administration of this chapter after such date.”.

SA 1412. Mr. DOMENICI (for himself, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. THOMAS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SMITH,