

Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance, I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, this week, from April 18th to 24th, we are celebrating the 46th anniversary of National Library Week. As a strong and vigorous supporter of Federal initiatives to strengthen and protect libraries, I am pleased to have this opportunity to take a few moments to reflect on the significance of libraries to our nation.

When the free public library came into its own in this country in the 19th century, it was, from the beginning, a unique institution because of its commitment to the free and open exchange of ideas embodied in the Constitution itself. Libraries have always been an integral part of all that our country stands for: freedom of information, an educated citizenry, and an open and enlightened society. They are the only public agencies in which the services rendered are intended for, and available to, every segment of our society.

It has been my longstanding view that libraries play an indispensable role in our communities. From modest beginnings in the mid-19th century, today's libraries provide well-stocked reference centers and wide-ranging loan services based on a system of branches, often further supplemented by traveling libraries or on-line libraries serving outlying districts. Libraries promote the reading of books among adults, adolescents, and children and provide the access and resources to allow citizens to obtain reliable information on a vast array of topics.

Libraries have gained even further significance in this age of rapid technological advancement because they are called upon to provide not only books and periodicals, but many other valuable resources as well. In today's society, libraries provide computer services, Internet access, audio-visual materials, facilities for community lectures and performances, DVDs, CD-Roms, tapes, and works of art for exhibit and loan to the public. In addition, special facilities libraries provide services for older Americans, people with disabilities, and hospitalized citizens.

Of course, libraries are not merely passive repositories of materials. They are engines of learning—the place where a spark is often struck for disadvantaged citizens who for whatever reason have not had exposure to the vast stores of knowledge available. I have the greatest respect for those individuals who are members of the library community and work so hard to ensure that our citizens and communities continue to enjoy the tremendous rewards available through our library system.

My own State of Maryland has 24 public library systems providing a full

range of library services to all Maryland citizens and a long tradition of open and unrestricted sharing of resources. This policy has been enhanced by the State Library Network, which provides interlibrary loans to the State public, academic, special libraries, and school library media centers. The Network receives strong support from the State Library Resource Center at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Regional Library Resource Centers in our Western, Southern, and Eastern Shore counties, and a Statewide database of periodicals from over 100 libraries.

The State Library Resource Center alone gives Marylanders free access to approximately 2 million books, over 1 million U.S. Government documents, 600,000 magazines, newspapers and books in microform, 11,000 periodicals, 90,000 maps, 20,000 Maryland State documents, and 19,000 videos and films.

The result of this unique joint State-County resource sharing is an extraordinary level of library services available to the citizens of Maryland. Marylanders have responded to this outstanding service with almost 58 percent of the State's population registered as library patrons. Additionally, the total holdings of catalogued and uncatalogued book volumes, video and audio recordings, periodicals, electronic formats, and serial volumes have increased by 1.2 million from 1998 to 2002 to total almost 16.8 million library holdings.

I have had a close working relationship with members of the Maryland Library Association and others involved in the library community throughout the State, and I am very pleased to join with them and citizens throughout the Nation in this week's celebration of "National Library Week." I look forward to a continued close association with those who enable libraries to make their unique and vital services available to all Americans.

CHINESE COMPETITION

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President, one thing I have learned in the last couple of years is that everywhere I go the manufacturing community at home keeps bringing up on topic, Chinese competition. Due in large part to China's unfair trade practices; South Carolina alone lost 41,000 jobs in 2003. Most of these jobs were textile and related industries. In the last five and a half years, three million American manufacturing jobs have been lost. Since 1997, the U.S. textile industry has closed more than 250 textile plants in the country and more than 200,000 U.S. textile workers have lost their jobs.

Why is this happening? Why are American manufacturers not able to keep up with the Chinese? It is not because our workforce is intellectually inferior, and I don't believe our workforce is lazy. And it certainly isn't because we haven't invested in the most modern equipment.

It is because China cheats. China's accession agreement to enter the WTO consisted of numerous commitments by China to transition to a market and rules based economy. China has yet to live up to their commitments. The theory of free trade is a great theory, but it only works if other people buy into that theory. It is hard to have free trade if you do not even believe in free speech. Through its unfair trade practices, China continues to steal market share, and the U.S. manufacturing industry is at serious disadvantage.

China's currency, the yuan or renminbi, has been tightly pegged at 8.28 yuan to the U.S. dollar since 1994, which most economists believe to be a severe undervaluation of their currency. Most economists estimate China's currency to be undervalued by as much as 15 to 40 percent. This undervaluation makes China's exports less expensive for foreigners, while making foreign products more expensive for Chinese consumers, resulting in an effective subsidization of Chinese exports and poses a virtual tariff on Chinese imports.

Consequently, since 1994, China's economy has grown dramatically, averaging over 8 percent per year. The U.S. trade deficit with China in 2003 reached a record \$125 billion. In 1994, when China first began to peg its currency to the dollar, the United States trade deficit with China was \$29.4 billion.

China has been in clear violation of International Monetary Fund, IMF, and world Trade Organization, WTO, commitments by maintaining an unfairly low exchange rate to gain a competitive advantage. IMF Article IV states that members should "avoid manipulating exchange rates . . . in order . . . to gain an unfair competitive advantage over other members." The U.S. China Economic and Security Review Commission, a bipartisan commission created by Congress, found in its September 25, 2003 hearing, that: "China, in violation of both its IMF and WTO obligations, is in fact manipulating its currency for trade advantage" and recommends that the Treasury Department "immediately enter into formal negotiations with the Chinese government" over its undervalued currency. The Commission further "urges the Congressional leadership to use its legislative powers to force action by the U.S. and Chinese Governments to address this unfair and mercantilist trade practice."

At this hearing, Fred Bergsten, Ph.D., Director of International Institute of Economics, testified that a revaluation of 20 to 25 percent of the yuan should permit other Asian currencies, including Japan, Taiwan, North Korea, to go up at least partway, maybe 10 percent or so, because with the yuan appreciating, they would be willing to appreciate against the dollar since it would actually create a depreciation of their own currencies against the Chinese currency, their main competitor. If you put all those currency

changes together the result would be a \$50 billion reduction in the U.S. current account deficit, which in turn translates to about 500,000 high-paying jobs, mainly in manufacturing in this country.

Senator CHARLES SCHUMER and I have introduced legislation that would require China to abide by its international trade agreements and stop manipulating their currency. The goal of this legislation is to remove China's unfair currency advantage and the detrimental impact that it is having in the U.S. and abroad.

Our legislation would require the Secretary of the Treasury to immediately enter into formal negotiations with China to ensure that China initiates a process to adopt a market-based system of currency within 180 days of enactment of this Act. If China refuses to do so, a 27.5 percent tariff will be imposed on all China's exports to the United States in order to reduce the export advantage provided by China's unfairly and illegally valued currency. The President of the United States has the authority to remove the tariff once he certifies to Congress that China has moved to a market-based system of currency valuation.

This legislation works within the framework of international trade laws. Article XXI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade allows a member of the World Trade Organization to take "any action which is considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests," particularly "in a time of war or other emergency in international relations." The President has stated a view that many of us hold, that our nation's manufacturing capability is a vital national interest. I know I am not alone when I say that this national interest is threatened by China's unfair currency practices.

Something must be done to alleviate the detrimental economic impact China is having on our manufacturing industry or at the very least, to level the playing field for future generations. I urge the Leadership to allow a vote on this important legislation. I believe it will receive overwhelming bipartisan support and give the Administration one more tool to get the Chinese to uphold their WTO obligations.

As long as we sit by and allow China to maintain its unfair trade advantage, the United States will continue to hemorrhage jobs. Passing this legislation is one step further to ensuring that China abides by the rules.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING ALYSON MIKE

• Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today with great pride to honor Montana's 2004 Teacher of the Year Award winner, Alyson Mike. Alyson overcame a lengthy list of quality teachers in Montana to secure this award. It is an

honor to recognize her outstanding contribution to Montana.

Alyson represents the type of teacher Montana has come to expect from its teaching community. She is an educator who meets the highest standards of professional excellence. Alyson is a student's teacher. She delivers to each and every one of her students without expectation of reward.

Alyson teaches middle school science at East Valley Middle School in Helena, MT, my home town. Sadly, like so many other rural communities, Helena has struggled economically in recent years. In this community, bake sales, garage sales, and silent auctions have become the norm, simply to raise funds for the school. But this has not stopped Alyson and members of the community from making sure the students receive what they need to succeed.

Like so many Montana teachers, Alyson takes a hands-on approach to ensure her students have access to a variety of materials and equipment. In Alyson's mind, there are no limits to what her students can accomplish.

Alyson earned her National Board Certification and has become a State leader in Montana's professional development. She is a leader to her students and encourages other teachers to make a difference in student's lives. Alyson's extensive background and knowledge in science, proven teaching strategies, and great sense of humor make her a Montana treasure.

We in Montana are very fortunate to be able to claim a teacher like Alyson Mike as our very own. She is a fabulous representative of the very best of public education in Montana and across our Nation.●

HONORING STUDENTS REPRESENTING RHODE ISLAND IN THE "WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION" COMPETITION

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, from May 1-3, 2004, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC, to take part in the national finals of "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution," an educational program developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the "We the People" program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that students from Central Falls High School will represent the State of Rhode Island in this national event. These outstanding students, through their knowledge of the U.S. Constitution, won their statewide competition and earned the chance to come to Washington and compete at the national level.

The three-day "We the People" National Finals Competition is modeled after hearings in the U.S. Congress. The students are given an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge before

a panel of judges while they evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

I wish these students the best of luck at the "We the People" national finals and applaud their achievement. I am sure that this valuable experience will encourage these young Rhode Islanders to remain engaged with government and public policy issues in the future.●

ERNIE HARTUNG, UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO'S TWELFTH PRESIDENT

• Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, today I pay my respects to Ernie Hartung, the 12th president of the University of Idaho, who passed away last fall.

I felt a special kinship to President Hartung for two reasons. The first was that we both came to the university as freshmen in 1965. He as a freshman president and I as a freshman student. As he often said, he considered himself to be a member of the class of 1969 because of that freshman connection.

The second reason for our special kinship was that I served as student body president in 1968-69 and had a close working relationship with President Hartung. He was a tireless advocate for student involvement, and the students responded by becoming strong, vocal supporters of President Hartung.

It is unlikely that any University of Idaho president ever generated the degree of grassroots student support that Ernie Hartung did. The best indication of this came on March 17, 1969. The university was facing a number of serious issues, and President Hartung had been publicly criticized by the Governor. In response, 4,500 students showed up at a campus rally on a cold, rainy night to voice their support for their university president. It was a remarkable showing of support for an extraordinary leader.

Ernie Hartung had a significant impact on the lives of thousands of Idahoans. On April 24th, 2004, the University of Idaho will be honoring this leader and his contributions. I appreciate my colleagues joining me today while I acknowledge all that President Hartung did, not only for me but for thousands of other University of Idaho alumni and Idahoans. While we miss him sorely, it is comforting to know that Idaho is a better place because of Ernie Hartung.●

NATIONAL PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. Primary immune deficiency diseases, PIDDD, are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly.

The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases, which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States.