

One last example: heart conditions are one of the leading diseases affecting Medicare patients and heart attacks can result in deaths and high costs. Many heart attack victims can be helped if they receive drugs to assist their damaged heart while it recovers. CMS studies indicate that many of the victims do not receive those medications. But, CMS collects that data with great effort—relying on many health professionals to extract data from clinical records and summarize the data for analysis. By the time the data is available, the patient has met their fate and the time for correcting a mistake, for getting them a lifesaving drug, has passed. We need to use electronic reporting based on a common method of collecting data to improve quality of care and patient safety for those in long-term care facilities, and for all Medicare patients.

I had hoped to see these measures pass in my final days in the Senate and thus leave patients with a safer medical system. I am deeply disappointed in the removal of the amendments from the Elder Justice Act.

However because of my great desire to see the Elder Justice Act go through, I removed my hold on the legislation on Wednesday, November 17. It is my understanding that the Elder Justice Act has not yet cleared the Senate because of Republican objections to the substance of the legislation.

I share Senator BREAUX's desire to see the legislation enacted this year, and fervently hope that may still be possible.

"HUGS, NOT BULLETS"

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues a campaign by the Neighborhood Service Organization's Youth Initiatives Project in Detroit, MI, called "Hugs, Not Bullets." This is an outstanding example of involvement by youth leaders who want to make a difference in their community by decreasing gun violence.

The Youth Initiatives Project was created in 1999 to address growing community issues including violence and substance abuse in Detroit. For five years, community organizations and students have been involved in a coordinated effort to accomplish the goals of the project. Previous Youth Initiatives Project campaigns have focused on after-school programs to reduce gun violence and increase the use of trigger locks in homes.

The current campaign, "Hugs, Not Bullets," is intended to reduce the use of firearms during the celebration of the New Year's holiday. Youth leaders have been organizing for months and plan to enlist over 200 students and numerous community groups in support of the campaign. Several rallies and a candlelight vigil are planned to draw attention to the campaign and the issue of gun safety. In addition, the

centerpiece of the campaign is a four-foot by eight-foot card which will make its way through schools and the community to be signed by those who pledge to help reduce gun violence over the New Year's holiday. The card will serve as a powerful symbol of the community's determination to fight violence, particularly involving firearms.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Youth Initiatives Project for their hard work to bring an end to the gun violence that continues to plague our society. I am hopeful that the 109th Congress will do more to support their efforts and pass sensible gun safety legislation. We owe it to them, to our police officers, and to our communities to do all we can to keep dangerous guns off of our streets.

EDUCATION

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I appreciate having this opportunity to express my congratulations and note for the RECORD the achievements of Dr. Steven F. Barrett who has just been named the Wyoming Professor of the Year. This prestigious honor is the only national award that recognizes the performance of college and university professors who have produced outstanding results as undergraduate teachers and mentors.

As an assistant professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Wyoming, Dr. Barrett has served as a role model for his colleagues on the school's academic staff, as well as the students he teaches in his classes. His unique teaching style gets students more involved in their classes and increases their commitment to the successful completion of their education.

Dr. Barrett played a key role in the effort to improve the electrical and computer engineering curriculum. He revived courses in biomedical engineering and image processing that had not been taught for years. He also served on a committee to establish a computer engineering degree at the university. Thanks in no small part to his efforts, the degree was approved by the university trustees in 2000, and the first students graduated from the program in 2001. Wyoming students now have the chance to obtain a degree in one of the fastest growing job industries. That will help to improve their future chances for success and the ability of our workforce to compete in an ever changing job market.

Dr. Barrett's dedication to his profession extends far beyond his efforts to establish the computer engineering degree. To ensure his students have the skills they will need to prepare them for post graduate life, he has upgraded the department's course work and laboratory activities involving micro-controllers, which are small self-contained computers. When he couldn't find a textbook he liked for the degree, he contacted a close friend and former

colleague to help him write a text that he could use in his classes. He has gone on to write another textbook and is in the process of completing a third. He truly does exemplify the characteristics needed to get students excited about education and what they need to do to reach their greatest potential.

Dr. Barrett's classes provide his students with a unique opportunity not only to learn, but to take a more active role in the process by helping to teach what they have learned. He applied for and was able to secure funding from the National Science Foundation for a program that improves the interaction between undergraduates and those with assistive technology needs. Through the program, students have had the support and encouragement they needed to develop a workshop to teach assistive technology professionals how to adapt off-the-shelf toys to assistive technology teaching aids. His students were also involved in the effort to create a 50-page workshop manual that they then used to help teach the workshop to assistive technology professionals across the state of Wyoming. By giving students these life experiences, they can more readily see the positive impact of the skills they have developed in the effort to improve the lives and education of others.

Wyoming can be very proud of professors such as Dr. Barrett who are such an integral part of our Wyoming school system. His dedication to the future of his students and his enthusiasm for teaching continues to improve the quality of the education Wyoming students receive in our schools, and better prepares them for the challenges they will face in their postgraduate years.

UNITED STATES CAPITOL HOLIDAY TREE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate Virginia's role as the 2004 provider of the annual U.S. Capitol Holiday Tree, selected each year from America's national forests.

In recent decades, the traditional Christmas tree has moved beyond its place as solely a religious symbol in the homes of hundreds of millions of Americans. Although the Christmas tree will always, and rightfully, have a special meaning in Christian homes, today all Americans await the annual tree-trimming to signal the beginning of the year-end religious and holiday season.

It is with great pleasure that I join my colleagues from the Virginia congressional delegation in recognizing the first-ever contribution from the Commonwealth of Virginia to this fine tradition. This year, our State, the home of the first English-speaking colony in the Americas, and home to our first President, George Washington, and eight of his successors, will make America proud as the home of the Nation's holiday tree for the first time since this tradition began 40 years ago.

The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote of friendship as a "sheltering