

This budget would also seriously compromise conservation programs that are used to restore our land and clean our water. Perhaps most unsettling will be the cuts to food assistance and nutrition programs, including food stamps. In Vermont, 30 percent of children live in low-income households that depend on food stamps for their basic needs and the medical safety net for their healthcare.

Vermont, together with States throughout the Nation, is facing a serious budget shortfall in providing the most basic level of healthcare to our most vulnerable citizens. Instead of facing that fact and providing temporary fiscal assistance to the States, the President called for billions of dollars in cuts in the Medicaid program, which the Senate fortunately rejected.

I am most disappointed that the Senate did not vote to provide additional funding for the Nation's water infrastructure. Spending on environmental programs from the national parks to programs that keep our water, land, and air clean will have to be reduced if this budget is enacted.

Priorities, it is all about priorities.

Even though education amendments passed, which I supported, that added money back to the Senate budget proposal, that is still insufficient to adequately fund important Federal education initiatives. I remain concerned that the budget resolution will eliminate funding for several key education programs, such as the \$1.3 billion Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. This is especially depressing since just last week the Senate, on a vote of 99-0, passed the Perkins bill. Then just a few days later, no funding is provided in the budget to carry out the program that was just passed.

In addition, the budget proposal does not provide the meaningful increases necessary to carry out the 4-year-old No Child Left Behind Act and the updated IDEA law that was enacted last December.

President Bush often mentions that education is a priority. He and I obviously define priority differently. To me, priority means you pay for the promises you make. I do not believe priority means you sign laws requiring more accountability to improve student performance, and then, in the next breath, send up a budget that doesn't provide the dollars needed to carry out the purposes of those laws.

I have spent a substantial part of my career calling for the full funding of special education. When the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act was enacted in 1975, Congress promised to pay 40 percent of the cost. In the current fiscal year, Congress will finance only 19 percent of the program, forcing States and localities to make up the difference.

I have tried to fulfill this promise in each of the last few years by making IDEA funding mandatory. The President and his allies have said that mandatory funding is not necessary, that

we can meet the promise of IDEA by increasing funding by \$1 billion each year. In this budget, IDEA funding is increased by only half of that amount.

This budget tells our children, their parents, and our local taxpayers that they are not a priority, and that we will not keep our word.

There is no question we are living through difficult budgetary times and savings must be sought at every opportunity. But we must not delude the American people into thinking that we can cut taxes, fight wars overseas, improve education, take care of our environment, and repair the Nation's transportation and water infrastructure all at the same time.

I could not support the budget resolution because it did not adequately fund important domestic programs and promote tax cuts to the detriment of other priorities. At the same time, it did little to put our Nation's fiscal house in order.

TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S HEROES OF THE STORM

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, throughout the week of April 10, 2005, The Weather Channel, based in Atlanta, GA, will air a special series, entitled *Heroes of the Storm*, honoring the Americans who performed the most exciting rescues depicted in the network's acclaimed series *Storm Stories*. Featured in the tribute will be 28 heroes from 15 States and the District of Columbia. These heroes, like all who risk their lives for others, deserve our Nation's admiration, recognition and thanks. I ask unanimous consent that the following list of heroes be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Mary Teresa Bagshaw, Nurse, Crawford, Colorado.

Richard Lee Fowler, Pilot, Longmont, Colorado.

Dawud Amin, Firefighter, New Haven, Connecticut.

Capt. Howard McCann, Firefighter, Madison, Connecticut.

Brian Wetzler, US Coast Guard Pilot, Washington, District of Columbia

Bradley Paul Brown, Paramedic (Retired), Mt. Dora, Florida.

Alan Auricchio, US Coast Guard, Penbroke, Maine.

Bart Cohey, Firefighter, Cordova, Maryland.

Melvin Lee Johnson, US Naval Reserves, Baltimore, Maryland.

Robert Sebeck, Firefighter, Abingdon, Maryland.

Petersen Niles Decker, US Naval Reserves, Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Orlin Anderson, Firefighter, Karlstad, Minnesota.

Gary Wayne Casper, Las Vegas PD, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Clint Malburg, Las Vegas PD, Las Vegas, Nevada.

James T. Mitchell, Las Vegas PD, North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Richard G. Servoss, Las Vegas PD, Las Vegas, Nevada.

George Marinkov, US Coast Guard, Linwood, New Jersey.

Warren Scott Adams, US Coast Guard, Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Lt Cmdr Joseph Edward Deer III, US Coast Guard, Camden, North Carolina.

Jeffrey D. Kotson, US Coast Guard, Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Peter O'Neill, Deputy Fire Chief, Grand Forks, North Dakota.

William Bloom, Volunteer Ski Patrol (Retired), Sprague River, Oregon.

Randy Benham, Park Ranger, Grants Pass, Oregon.

Jim Allday, EMS, Austin, Texas.

Thomas Stephan Lott, Jr., Firefighter, Round Rock, Texas.

Trevor Joseph Stokes, Firefighter, Georgetown, Texas.

Tim Wallace, Firefighter, Round Rock, Texas.

Philip Joseph Ornot, Jr., US Coast Guard, Virginia Beach, Virginia.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RETIREMENT OF CAROL DIBATTISTE

• Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to extend my best wishes to Carol DiBattiste, whose last day as deputy administrator of the Transportation Security Administration was April 8, 2005. Carol DiBattiste is truly a living textbook version of a "public servant." Her record is one of service to country, of a strong leader who gives unstintingly of herself to make sure that America's defenses against terrorism are as strong as possible. I know that Carol's dedication to this mission and strong leadership will be sorely missed by her colleagues at TSA and the Department of Homeland Security.

Ms. DiBattiste arrived at TSA in March of 2003 after more than 33 years of public service and two years at a private law firm. As the new Chief of Staff at TSA, she brought with her a sense of urgency that fit well in an agency committed to the security of the Nation's transportation system. Ms. DiBattiste immediately put her unique experience and skills to work as a member of the TSA leadership team as it rushed to meet its mission.

Hard work has characterized Ms. DiBattiste's public career. She enlisted in the Air Force in 1971, earned her B.A. degree magna cum laude in sociology/criminal justice from LaSalle University in 1976, her J.D. degree from Temple University School of Law in 1981, and her Master of Laws degree from Columbia University School of Law in 1986.

Before retiring from the Air Force as a major in 1991, her assignments included serving as chief prosecutor for the Pacific Region, faculty of the Air Force Judge Advocate General School, and chief recruiting attorney for the Air Force. Going forward, Ms. DiBattiste's career took her to the Department of Justice where she was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida and director of the Department's Office of Legal Education. In 1993, Ms.