

proposed that the President make the appointments. On July 18, Nathaniel Gorham of Massachusetts proposed a compromise, that the President make the appointment with the advice and consent of the Senate. That is, they both decide; not just the President, not just the Senate, they both do, again, to protect the integrity of the independence of our Federal judiciary.

The history of the Constitutional Convention thus demonstrates that the Founders hoped that both the President and the Senate could be involved in the process.

In its application, the Senate's involvement in the confirmation of judges has helped to ensure that nominees have had the support of a broad political consensus. The Senate's involvement has helped to ensure that the President could not appoint extreme nominees. The Senate's involvement has thus helped to ensure that judges have been freer of partisanship and, in fact, more independent.

The Founders wanted the courts to be an independent branch of Government, helping to exercise the Constitution's intricate systems of checks and balances. The Senate's involvement in the confirmation of judges has helped to ensure that the judiciary can be that more independent branch. And that independence of the judiciary, in turn, has helped to ensure the protection of personal rights and liberties in our country.

It is important that we get good judges. Over the years, this has been one of the issues of greatest importance to me as a Senator. That is why I worked to set up a merit selection system that is truly apolitical to select judges that I recommend to the President from my State of Montana. The Senate's rules help to make a merit selection possible.

I invite my colleagues to read the inscription in the marble relief over the Senate's door to my left. There is inscribed a single word: "Courage." That is what preserving the Senate's rules will require: courage to stand up to the extremists; courage to stand up to the majority of one's party; courage to save the institution itself.

For Senators of either party, the simplest thing is usually to vote with the party. Voting with the party makes it easier to go to the party caucus lunch. Voting with the party makes it easier to hang on to a committee chairmanship.

To preserve this Senate will take the courage of at least six Senators in the majority party who are willing to vote for the institution first before their comfort at party lunches. It will take the courage of six Senators in the majority party who are willing to risk their chairmanships to protect the Senate—indeed, the country itself.

Let me offer this encouragement. I recall a decade ago in 1995, Senator Mark Hatfield from Oregon, who was then the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, told his majority

leader, Senator Bob Dole, that he would rather resign from the Senate than vote for the constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget. Luckily, Senator Dole did not accept Senator Hatfield's offer, and Senator Dole later wrote:

While I strongly disagreed with his position, I also respected any Senator's right to vote their conscience.

In retrospect, Republican Senators should see it was lucky for them that Senator Hatfield voted as he did. For if the Constitution required a balanced budget, it would have required the majority party to make massive cuts in Government services during the 5 years of deficits and, thus, if the Constitution required a balanced budget, the voters would have long ago punished Republican Senators for the cuts they would have made. They should thank Senator Hatfield that it did not pass. In the end, the sacrifices of these times ask that six Senators of the majority party stand up. The sacrifices that these times ask of six Senators from the majority party pales next to those of an earlier generation. Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson selected the words "e pluribus unum" as the Nation's motto on August 10, 1776. That was barely a month after they had published the document, the Declaration of Independence, in which they had written:

We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Just think of the courage of our Founding Fathers when they wrote the Declaration of Independence to break away from England knowing if they were apprehended, they would all be hanged. They knew that. Just think of their courage.

On the occasion of signing the Declaration, Benjamin Franklin is said to have warned: We must all hang together or surely we will all hang separately.

Our Founders sought unity from the very beginning. For unity, they were willing to risk their fortunes. For unity, they were willing to risk their lives. How many here can say that?

Today, to preserve the rules of the Senate that so foster unity, six Senators will be asked to risk much less. To preserve this Senate, they need not offer their fortunes. To preserve this Senate, they need not offer their lives. But to preserve this Senate, they will need to offer their courage.

I call on my colleagues in the majority to follow the exhortations engraved on the west door. I call on my colleagues to recall the courage of our Founders who risked their lives to give us this sacred inheritance of checks and balances. I call on my colleagues to summon the courage to vote against the effort to change the rules that make the Senate the place we love so much, that would change the Senate so much so that it will dramatically undermine the protection of liberties and the protection of our rights that so many Americans look to us to enforce.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GLOBAL HEALTH CORPS ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on Tuesday, I introduced the Global Health Corps Act of 2005.

As a doctor who has traveled the world treating patients in desperate and war-ravaged lands, this cause is near and dear to my heart.

I believe, and I have seen, through the good works of many talented and compassionate men and women, that medicine is not only an instrument of health, but a currency of peace. Healing gives hope. And I have seen that real, tangible, medical intervention can help bridge the gaps and misunderstandings that so often divide cultures.

We see that phenomenon in Afghanistan and Iraq. And we saw it in South East Asia in the aftermath of the terrible tsunami tragedy.

Immediately, American military ships, planes and helicopters arrived to deliver food, water, medicine and tents to the devastated region. The U.S. Agency for International Development set up a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week, Disaster Response Command Center here in Washington and abroad.

Thousands of private citizens, religious groups, small businesses and large corporations sent tens of millions of dollars in donations to help aid the people of South East Asia. Many continue to keep giving. America's response, both official and private, was a portrait in compassion.

I had the opportunity to travel to the region with the distinguished Senator MARY LANDRIEU days after the tsunami struck. Together, we surveyed the damage, assessed the humanitarian needs, and witnessed American compassion in action.

We spoke to doctors, nurses, officials and victims. One doctor I met in Sri Lanka told me a remarkable story of compassion. He had e-mailed a plea for help just as the massive wave swamped his hospital. Within 2 days, a team of Scandinavian physicians who had seen the e-mail arrived to set up a pediatric ward.

Countless health care professionals from all over the world, both volunteers and government workers, rushed to the devastated region to offer assistance and supplies.

The outpouring of support from the world community, led by American efforts, was truly extraordinary—a moving testament to our shared humanity.

America is a giving nation. Indeed, America provides 60 percent of all food humanitarian relief in the world. Moreover, the generosity of private citizens significantly amplifies official efforts.

It is this spirit of generosity that the Global Health Corps seeks to harness. America possesses a vast reservoir of talent, knowledge, and compassion that can help heal, both literally and figuratively, our global ties.

It was the famed violinist, Yehudi Menuhin, who said:

Peace may sound simple—one beautiful word—but it requires everything we have, every quality, every strength, every dream, every high ideal.

Providing health care services and training to those in need is one positive step we can take to demonstrate our goodwill and high ideals, and by doing so, plant the seeds of hope and peace.

The purpose of the Global Health Corps is twofold.

First and foremost, the Health Corps will help to improve the health, welfare, and development of communities in foreign countries and regions abroad.

In too many places, simple things like vaccinations, first aid, clean water, and hygiene are unknown or woefully inadequate. Men, women and children especially children—suffer terrible illnesses that can be easily prevented with basic health services.

The Health Corps bill seeks to provide a range of services from rapid relief, like what we saw following the tsunami, to long-term assistance to address endemic public health issues. It provides services such as veterinary care, which is very important in developing countries, where livestock are frequently a family's means of nutrition, commerce, and wealth.

A new Institute of Medicine survey issued today reports that one of the biggest obstacles to fighting HIV/AIDS in Africa is the severe shortage of medical personnel.

Sub-Saharan Africa has 25 percent of the world's HIV/AIDS cases, but only 1.3 percent of the world's health force. In Rwanda, for example, there are less than two doctors per 100,000 people.

If we are to maximize our help to these countries, we need to strengthen the medical delivery systems on the ground. HIV/AIDS medicine does no good sitting in boxes. Vaccines can't protect children from preventable diseases if there is no one to administer the shots. Strengthening the local infrastructure and teaching local citizens basic health skills will go a long way to addressing their medical needs.

The second goal of the Global Health Corps is to deploy health care assistance as a tool of public diplomacy. John F. Kennedy recognized that our assistance to other nations carries the most weight when it involves personal, intimate contact on the community level and provides tangible benefits to everyday people. This is why he established the Peace Corps, and why this bill taps into the Peace Corps for volunteers.

The new Global Health Corps will draw together health care professionals and volunteers from around the Na-

tion, from both the private and public sectors.

Some Health Corps volunteers will be seasoned doctors, nurses, and medical technicians. Others will enter the program with simply a passion for public health, a willingness to learn, and a desire to help others.

The U.S. Government is already doing a great deal of work in these areas. But the Global Health Corps will pull it all together, coordinate and focus our efforts, and tap into the private sector both private organizations and individuals—to multiply our efforts.

Like members of the Peace Corps and our many volunteers abroad, the Global Health Corps will serve as a shining example of the American people, our charity and goodwill.

In a speech in San Francisco on the eve of the 1960 Presidential election, John F. Kennedy made the stark but compassionate observation that:

There is not enough money in all America to relieve the misery of the undeveloped world in a giant and endless soup kitchen. But there is enough know-how and enough knowledgeable people to help those nations help themselves.

Indeed, as the famous proverb counsels:

Give a man a fish and he's fed for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will be fed all of his life.

I am proud that Senator LUGAR, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is co-sponsoring my bill. I urge my colleagues to join us in this vital mission.

In a world that is ever more connected by planes and computers, markets and movements, our fate is bound ever closer with that of our neighbors—near and far, wealthy and poor. I call upon my colleagues to advance our common humanity. Helping heal others abroad—and showing them America's heart—will help all of us stay safer at home.

#### SUPPORTING COPS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, combating violent crime, especially gun crime, requires that our law enforcement agencies are adequately staffed and equipped. I have been a strong supporter of the Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS, program. The COPS Program has been critical to our Nation's law enforcement community since its creation in 1994, and I am pleased to join Senator BIDEN as a co-sponsor of the COPS Reauthorization Act.

The COPS Program was designed to assist State and local law enforcement agencies in hiring additional police officers to reduce crime through the use of community policing. In Michigan alone, 514 local and State law enforcement agencies have received more than \$220 million in grants through the COPS Program since its creation. These grants have improved the safety of communities by putting more than

3,300 law enforcement officers on Michigan streets and by supporting other important programs. Nationwide, the COPS Program has awarded more than \$11 billion in grants, resulting in the hiring of 118,000 additional police officers.

In my home State, the Detroit Police Department, DPD, used a COPS grant to hire additional officers that were needed to implement a 5-year community policing plan. Prior to the COPS grant award, the DPD lacked sufficient personnel to effectively cover high crime areas. The community policing plan placed teams of officers in neighborhoods to combat rising crime rates and work with residents to develop crime reduction strategies. The plan resulted in a drop in the number of reported violent crimes as well as improved police-community relations. The success of the Detroit Police Department illustrates the important role that COPS grants play in the safety of communities around the country.

Unfortunately, authorization for the COPS Program was permitted to expire at the end of fiscal year 2000. Although the program has survived through the annual appropriations process, it has received significant funding cuts. In fact, the Fiscal Year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act included only \$606 million for the COPS Program, \$142 million below the amount appropriated in 2004. In addition, President Bush's fiscal year 2006 budget would completely eliminate the COPS hiring grants. Despite the important positive impact of the COPS Program in Detroit and across the country, the President justified his cuts by calling the program "nonperforming" and not having "a record of demonstrating results." Our State and local law enforcement agencies know better and we should listen to them.

The COPS Reauthorization Act would continue the COPS Program for another 6 years at a funding level of \$1.15 billion per year. This funding would allow State and local governments to hire an additional 50,000 police officers over the next 6 years. In addition, the bill would modernize the COPS Program by authorizing \$350 million in law enforcement technology grants to assist police departments in acquiring new technologies for the analysis of crime data and the examination of DNA evidence, among other uses. The COPS Reauthorization Act would also build upon the accomplishments of the original COPS Program by authorizing \$200 million in community prosecutor grants. These grants would be used to hire community prosecutors trained to work at the local and neighborhood level to prevent crime and improve relations with residents.

At a time when we are asking more of our police departments than ever before, I believe we should be devoting more resources to the COPS Program, not less. The increased threat of terrorism as well as the continuing epidemic of gun violence underscores the