

HONORING TERRENCE M.
McDERMOTT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a constituent, Terrence M. McDermott, executive vice president and chief executive officer of the National Association of Realtors, and congratulate him on his retirement.

Born and raised on the West Side of Chicago, Mr. McDermott attended Loyola University in Chicago and the National College of Education in Evanston, IL.

Before serving as CEO for the National Association of Realtors, Mr. McDermott gained nearly 30 years of experience in publishing and media. He also served as the executive vice president and chief executive officer of the American Institute of Architects and on the board of the American Architectural Foundation.

In addition to his many professional accomplishments, Mr. McDermott possesses a lifelong love of politics instilled by his family. Politics were routinely discussed around the dinner table, and Mr. McDermott worked as a volunteer on Senator Paul Douglas's last campaign before he could even vote.

Mr. McDermott is also an avid hunter and fisherman and plans to spend his retirement expanding his extensive decoy collection. Mr. McDermott and his wife Sue Ann recently celebrated their 39th anniversary and have two children, Matthew and Patricia.

I congratulate Mr. McDermott on his many accomplishments throughout his long and successful career, and I wish him many more years of happiness and accomplishment in retirement.

EXTENSION OF THE HIGHER
EDUCATION ACT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise today to encourage my colleagues to pass H.R. 3784, which would provide for a temporary extension of the Higher Education Act of 1965. As my colleagues are aware, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions approved legislation unanimously that would reauthorize Federal higher education programs for another 6 years. However, as many of these programs will expire on September 30, it is important that we extend the programs authorized by this act until the Congress can successfully complete work on the reauthorization legislation.

I am pleased to have been able to report that legislation with a unanimous vote out of committee. I am hopeful that the Senate will take action on that legislation quickly, either in the context of budget reconciliation or on its own, and that we can continue the commitment of Congress to support the access and affordability of higher education in this country.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT
EXTENSION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, while I recognize that the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, HELP, is overwhelmed in addressing the needs associated with the Hurricane Katrina recovery, the Higher Education Act, HEA, is set to expire on September 30, 2005. I am concerned that with the extension of the HEA until December 31, 2005, we may be sending a signal that we are not planning on acting on the HEA reauthorization bill in the near future. I would like to know if my friend, the chairman of the HELP Committee, could give me his assurance he still intends to make passage of the permanent reauthorization a priority in the next few weeks?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, in response to that question, I would like to assure my colleague from Utah that the HELP Committee intends to keep this a high priority and we are hopeful of having a bill signed into law before December 31, 2005.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I would like to thank the chairman for that confirmation.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT NEEDS
OUR HELP

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I have been a strong supporter of the Community Oriented Policing Services, or COPS, program since its creation in 1994. Nationwide, the COPS program has awarded more than \$11 billion in grants, resulting in the hiring of 118,000 additional police officers. In Michigan, 514 local and State law enforcement agencies have received more than \$220 million in grants through the COPS program. These grants have improved the safety of communities by putting more than 3,300 law enforcement officers on Michigan streets.

In the past month alone, the COPS program has awarded nearly \$2 million in grants to Michigan communities. One COPS grant program, the Secure Our Schools Initiative, recently awarded more than \$1 million in grants to nine Michigan communities to provide enhanced security for public schools. These grants help our schools pay for security assessments, security training for students and personnel and the installation of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other important security measures. Another COPS grant program, the Tribal Resources Grant Program, awarded more than \$800,000 in grants to eight Native-American communities in Michigan. These funds will strengthen the police departments in these communities by helping tribes hire and train police officers and modernize their equipment. COPS grants like these are critical to Michigan communities that are working to prevent and respond to violent crimes, especially those involving guns.

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 under this administration. 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. During consideration of the fiscal year 2006 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill last week, I supported an amendment that would have provided \$1 billion for the COPS program. Unfortunately, this amendment was defeated and the majority in the Senate voted to cut the COPS program further to \$515 million for fiscal year 2006.

I have cosponsored the COPS Reauthorization Act introduced by Senator BIDEN. This bill 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.

The increased threat of terrorism as well as the continuing epidemic of gun violence underscores the need to devote more resources for our law enforcement agencies. The safety and security of our communities depends upon our local police departments, most often the first responders, being adequately staffed, trained, and equipped. I hope the Senate will do more to support the efforts of our local law enforcement officials by adequately funding programs such as COPS.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On August 1, 2004, a man was shot with a pellet gun in the back near his home in Bronx, NY. The apparent motivation for the attack was the man's sexual orientation.