

to political prisoners and their families, other dissidents, independent libraries, youth organizations, workers rights activists, agricultural cooperatives, associations of the self-employed, journalists, economists, and medical doctors.

This has been cleared by our side. I believe that the other side, the Democrats, will have an opportunity to show solidarity with the Cuban people. We will try to clear this bill through the Senate when we reconvene.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if I might be allowed to comment as well, as the Senator from Tennessee, the majority leader, describes the bill, it sounds as if it is one that I gladly and wholeheartedly would support. I know Senator MARTINEZ has a special interest in this issue, having been born in Cuba and then coming to the United States and still with the great love for the land where he was born.

I have spoken to him for the last several days while there apparently is a transition of power in place there. And I know how important this is to him personally and to so many other people of Cuban dissent who live in the United States.

I am sorry that it cannot be cleared, but there are some on this side of the aisle who have expressed some reservation or objection at this point. But I personally hope that we can do this as quickly as possible so that the people of Cuba can appreciate and enjoy freedom as soon as we can give them a helping hand.

RETIREMENT OF MARTY BERMAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate community is losing a longtime and valued employee. After 18 years of loyal and distinguished service, Marty Berman is retiring from the Senate Recording Studio. Marty played an integral part in the television broadcast of the Senate's proceedings and in helping facilitate the audio and video needs of Senators and their staffs.

His service to his country really started 45 years ago. Marty served faithfully, enlisting twice in a military career that began when he was 17 and lasted 6 years, from 1961 to 1967. Before leaving the military, he was a communications specialist with duty in Vietnam.

Marty brought extensive television experience to his job at SRS. In the private sector he worked at Satellite News Network, CNN, and finally at CBS. His work for Charles Kuralt and "CBS Sunday Morning" was nominated for an Emmy. A 13-minute long story he had photographed was aired, which is the television equivalent of a long book.

His career at the recording studio began in 1988 where he quickly came to specialize in audio operations. However, his contributions were not only technical. He also had just the right personal touch with Senators. It isn't always easy to get up in front of TV cameras and lights to speak, even for

Senators, but Marty had the ability to put any Senator at ease. When floor directing, he spoke to each Senator easily and with warmth, and they trusted him. He was never intimidated, but he was always respectful.

Marty can be a bit feisty, but his bark is much worse than his bite. To those who have gotten to know him, he is warm and caring, too.

Marty ended where he had started, working the Senate television shift. In 18 years he braved many long days and late nights through the Senate's always unpredictable schedule. Throughout his time at the studio, Marty could always be counted on to be at his post. That included his work as chief STV audio operator where for most days during his shift he started up in the audio booth, assuring that the Senators could always be heard in the Chamber and on television.

Marty is the father of 3 grown children: Tracy, Eric, and Alex. The 3 have been the pride of his life and have become responsible and caring adults. He is also the proud grandfather of two. His marriage to Darlene has brought him much happiness. Both share the same three hobbies: antique collecting, antique collecting, and more antique collecting. Their home is a somewhat cluttered but fascinating museum of American Western and American Indian artifacts, pottery, Big Little Books, and just about anything else you can think of. Last, but not least, there are four others who hold a place in his heart. They are Hoover the yellow lab, Clarence the basset hound, Crystal, the cat, and Birdie the cockatiel. Birdie likes to lay back and listen to the blues with Marty and Darlene and can even whistle Colonel Bogey's March from "Bridge on the River Kwai."

Marty's unique personality, loyalty, and dedication will be missed. We all join to wish Marty the best as he begins this next adventure in his life and know he will enjoy the newfound time for family, friends, pets, and antique collecting.

160TH ANNIVERSARY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S ELECTION TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Leo Tolstoy said of Abraham Lincoln that "His example is universal and will last thousands of years . . . He was bigger than his country—bigger than all the Presidents together . . . and as a great character he will live as long as the world lives."

Abraham Lincoln has been known and admired through the generations—and around the world. But Abraham Lincoln is known primarily for his presidency and his leadership of the United States through the dark days of the Civil War. We recall his unwavering commitment to the "American experiment" in democracy and his refusal to allow the national Union to fail, regardless of the odds against him.

Few people remember, though, that Abraham Lincoln was also a Member of Congress at one time. Today, August 3, in fact, marks the 160th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's election to a single term in the U.S. House of Representatives. I also had the privilege of representing the 20th Congressional District of Illinois as a member of the House for 14 years.

There is a reason few people remember Lincoln's service in Congress. Frankly, his one term, in the 30th Congress, which sat from December 1847 to March of 1849, was rather unremarkable. He was a young country lawyer who served with the likes of John Quincy Adams in the House and Daniel Webster and John Calhoun in the Senate. Most of his colleagues viewed him as a Westerner of average talent.

He was a conscientious and hard-working Member, though, which isn't particularly surprising. He served on various committees, he voted on the floor of the House in nearly all of the rollcall votes during his term, and he corresponded faithfully with his constituents.

His most famous contribution to the political and policy debates of his term—criticism of President James Polk for the Nation's involvement in the Mexican war—earned him scorn and disfavor back in Illinois where the war had been popular. Illinois Democrats called Lincoln, himself a Whig at the time, a disgrace.

Lincoln left Congress and returned to his legal practice, arguing cases in country courthouses of Illinois' Eighth Judicial Circuit, and thinking he had no future in politics.

On the contrary, Lincoln's time walking the Halls of this building introduced him to the issues on the national political stage. The Congress in which he served debated the Wilmot Proviso, which would have prevented the spread of slavery into territories newly acquired from Mexico. Those debates exposed Lincoln to the divisiveness and explosiveness of the issue that severely tried his presidency a decade and a half later and nearly destroyed the country. His time in Congress also produced personal and political connections that served him years later as President and Commander-in-Chief.

Today, we mark the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's election to the House of Representatives as the beginning of this great man's ascent on the national political stage. In February 2009, the Nation will mark the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth. Congress established the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission to help our Nation mark this milestone. I am privileged to cochair the Commission along with Congressman RAY LAHOOD and Lincoln Scholar Harold Holzer—we like to call ourselves "a team of rivals." We have been working diligently to ensure

that a “fitting and proper” commemoration is planned. I am pleased to report that a number of our goals have already been met—the authorization of new penny designs in the bicentennial year and the issuance of a commemorative coin, for example. Other educational, scholarly, cultural, and historical events are in various stages of planning—both here in the United States and abroad.

After President Lincoln’s untimely death, Edwin M. Stanton said, “Now he belongs to the ages.” Mr. President, today we remember Abraham Lincoln’s service in the House, his leadership during our Nation’s most perilous time, and his legacy of freedom, democracy, and equal opportunity. Even great life begins with a series of small but important steps. Let us keep working to carry out Abraham Lincoln’s vision in our day.

AFRICAN HEALTH CAPACITY INVESTMENT ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week I introduced the African Health Capacity Investment Act of 2006.

This bill was inspired last December, when I visited the Democratic Republic of Congo with Senator SAM BROWNBACK of Kansas.

The Congo is one of the poorest, most violent regions on Earth. This past weekend, it held its first multiparty elections in nearly 50 years. That is a moment to celebrate.

But one of the most profound challenges that the newly elected government will face is how to even begin to meet the health needs of its people. In the DRC, there are only 7 doctors and 44 nurses per 100,000 people. In the eastern Congo, which has witnessed terrible conflict and disease, there is only 1 doctor per 160,000 people. And, I was told, in the city of Goma, surgeons are literally one in a million. To put that in perspective, imagine three surgeons in a city the size of Chicago. Imagine living like that, and then imagine your doctors and nurses leaving for countries with better working conditions, better pay, and brighter futures.

That is the situation that the Congo and almost all of Sub-Saharan Africa faces every day, as doctors and nurses leave rural areas for African cities and leave African cities for the United States, the United Kingdom, and other Western destinations. Every year, Africa loses another 20,000 trained health professionals to European and North American medical facilities. That is an enormous brain drain.

As Randall Tobias, the U.S. Director of Foreign Assistance, has noted, there are more Ethiopian-trained doctors practicing in Chicago than in Ethiopia.

In the United States, we have 549 doctors and 773 nurses for every 100,000 people. And even at those levels, we face our own personnel shortages. As the baby boomers age and our health workforce retires, our shortages will grow. It has become our habit to recruit doctors and nurses from abroad

and increasingly from the developing world to staff our hospitals, doctors’ offices, and other health centers.

Those individuals immigrate here for the same reasons that people have always migrated here. They come for economic opportunities, greater freedom, and a better future for their children. As the son of an immigrant, I recognize their motivations and welcome the contributions that they make. But I also have to look at the countries that they leave behind.

That is what struck me so powerfully in the Congo: that we cannot continue to depend on the poorest countries in the world to train our doctors and nurses. We have to expand our own health workforce. Our nursing schools turn away thousands of qualified applicants every year because they don’t have enough faculty to teach them. We have to fix that.

And we have to help Africa heal itself because even if the brain drain stopped completely, even if every doctor and nurse on the continent of Africa stayed there, they would still have tremendous shortages of health personnel.

That is why Senators COLEMAN, DEWINE, and FEINGOLD and I introduced the African Health Capacity Act this week.

The World Health Report concluded in 2003, “The most critical issue facing health care systems is the shortage of people who make them work.” The 2006 report, which focused entirely on health workforces, helped provide a blueprint on how to build that critical human infrastructure.

Sub-Saharan Africa has 11 percent of the world’s population. It bears 25 percent of the global disease burden. But it has only 3 percent of the world’s health workers, and it suffers nearly half of the world’s deaths from infectious diseases.

Personnel shortages are a global problem, but nowhere are these shortages more extreme, the infrastructure more limited, and the health challenges graver than in Sub-Saharan Africa, the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We will not win the war against AIDS or any other health challenge without finding solutions to this problem. It looms larger than shortages of ARVs or any other single factor. The Institute of Medicine has called the health care worker shortage the greatest obstacle to fighting HIV/AIDS.

AIDS has had a particularly insidious effect on health workforces in Africa. Beginning in the 1980s, HIV/AIDS began to take a terrible toll among health workers in Africa. In 2000, 20 percent of the student nurses in Mozambique died from AIDS. Health workers are particularly vulnerable because many lack access to gloves or training in universal precautions that would help protect them from infection. These unsafe working conditions naturally drive many people to seek either safer jobs or employment in other countries. As illness, death, and migration reduce staff, those who are left face even heav-

ier workloads, and they too may leave. This is a deadly and vicious cycle that we have to help Africa break.

The shortage of personnel has deadly repercussions that extend far beyond HIV/AIDS. A woman in Sub-Saharan Africa, for example, has a 1 in 13 chance of dying in pregnancy or childbirth, according to UNICEF. In resource-rich countries such as ours, that risk is 1 out of 4100. You change those terrible odds for the woman in Africa by providing greater access to skilled birth attendants. You greatly improve the newborn baby’s chance at survival as well.

It is critically important that as we increase assistance for HIV/AIDS and for health and economic development more generally, that we work to strengthen health systems as a whole. The Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator is doing terrific work at boosting health capacity in the public and private sectors, and USAID has also been engaged in this effort.

This bill is intended to give these agencies the tools to do more and to better integrate and coordinate their activities.

The bill seeks to help Sub-Saharan African countries strengthen the capabilities of their health systems by helping countries improve dangerous and Sub-standard working conditions; helping them train, recruit, and retain doctors, nurses, and paraprofessionals; developing better management and public health training; and improving productivity and workforce distribution. Collecting workforce data, or strengthening the public health sector may not sound very glamorous, but steps like these are critical to creating the health infrastructure that Africa so badly needs.

That infrastructure may also be very important to us. With air travel to spread avian flu, scientists tell us that we may have only 3 weeks to contain an outbreak of the disease from the time that outbreak is detected anywhere in the world. If we miss that window, the outbreak of avian flu may become a pandemic and spread around the world.

As stated in the Harvard Public Health Review, “Those regions of the world where human expertise and resources are in shortest supply, such as Africa, are most likely to serve as particularly fertile ground for getting a large-scale human flu epidemic off to a robust start.” It is in our own interests, as well as Africa’s, to improve its public health infrastructure.

This same point was made in the President’s 2002 National Security Strategy. This document provides the administration’s fundamental view of how we should confront global challenges and opportunities in the security arena. It is a measure of risks and priorities that is issued each Presidential term.

President Bush’s 2002 National Security Strategy stated, “The scale of the