

IRAQ

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss Iraq, as I have every day this week that we have been here. First, I know we all have the deepest gratitude and respect for the sacrifice of the brave men and women serving our country so valiantly in Iraq. Make no mistake about it, the troops are doing their job. I am concerned, however, that their mission is not worthy of their great sacrifice, especially the President's surge.

The surge, despite earlier reports this week, has failed to meet the objectives set out by the President. And the President can't change that fact by changing the goal. He is now claiming progress in Iraq as evidence that the surge—directed at Baghdad—is working. While the President has claimed progress in Anbar, it was not the surge that brought the momentary calm to this region, because the surge was focused mainly on Baghdad, and the difficult process of political reconciliation. Its objective, as stated by the President himself, was to create breathing room for the central Iraqi Government to make political progress.

Our brave troops have been in Anbar for years and years, doing the first-rate job they always do in what is a very difficult environment. Now, however, some elements of the local population, and some of their leaders, have made common cause with the brave men and women of our military. They have cooperated with our troops out of distaste for the brutal methods of al-Qaida. While this is a welcome and helpful development, it is neither the foundation upon which a successful long-term strategy can be launched, nor is it a result of the surge, which was targeted mainly at Baghdad and the national Iraqi political process.

We have heard about successes in the past. They are temporary. They are not based on any permanent structural change or any permanent change in the views of the Iraqi citizens. The Shiites, the Sunnis, and the Kurds still despise each other. They dislike each other more than they like any central government. We have heard about success in the past in Baghdad, and we have heard about success in Fallujah, and they vanish like the wind because the fundamentals on the ground haven't changed.

Now, at a time when the American people are crying out for a change in course, some are pointing to a temporary situation in one province—Anbar—as a way to continue the present misguided policy. It makes no sense. It makes no sense because the fundamentals in Iraq stay the same. There is no central government that has any viability, and the warlords in Anbar Province have no relationship with the central government whatsoever. The Shiites, the Kurds, and the Sunnis, as I have stated, dislike each other far more than they like or want any central government, and these two

facts doom the administration's policy to failure.

We should not have our brave soldiers fighting a civil war caught between rival political and religious factions. We desperately need a change in course, a change in course that recognizes the political situation on the ground, and I urge that this body move forward to do just that.

CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 21

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, section 306 of S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 budget resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the aggregates, allocations, and other appropriate levels for legislation that would make higher education more accessible and more affordable, provided that the legislation does not worsen the deficit over the period of the total of fiscal years 2007 through 2012 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2007 through 2017.

I find that the conference report for H.R. 2669, the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, satisfies the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for higher education. Therefore, pursuant to section 306, I am adjusting the aggregates in the 2008 budget resolution, as well as the allocation provided to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

I ask unanimous consent that the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 be printed in the RECORD.

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008.—S. CON. RES. 21; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 306 DEFICIT-NEUTRAL RESERVE FUND FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

(In billions of dollars)

Section 101:	
(1)(A) Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007 .....	1,900.340
FY 2008 .....	2,022.084
FY 2009 .....	2,121.502
FY 2010 .....	2,176.951
FY 2011 .....	2,357.680
FY 2012 .....	2,494.753
(1)(B) Change in Federal Revenues:	
FY 2007 .....	-4.366
FY 2008 .....	-28.712
FY 2009 .....	14.576
FY 2010 .....	13.230
FY 2011 .....	-36.870
FY 2012 .....	-102.343
(2) New Budget Authority:	
FY 2007 .....	2,371.470
FY 2008 .....	2,503.114
FY 2009 .....	2,524.848
FY 2010 .....	2,579.138
FY 2011 .....	2,697.407
FY 2012 .....	2,734.883
(3) Budget Outlays:	
FY 2007 .....	2,294.862
FY 2008 .....	2,469.527
FY 2009 .....	2,570.800
FY 2010 .....	2,607.889
FY 2011 .....	2,703.174
FY 2012 .....	2,716.580

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(In millions of dollars)

Current Allocation to Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority .....	12,922
FY 2007 Outlays .....	13,144
FY 2008 Budget Authority .....	10,608
FY 2008 Outlays .....	10,024
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority .....	56,565
FY 2008–2012 Outlays .....	54,185
Adjustments:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority .....	-4,890
FY 2007 Outlays .....	-4,890
FY 2008 Budget Authority .....	-176
FY 2008 Outlays .....	-842
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority .....	5,754
FY 2008–2012 Outlays .....	4,888
Revised Allocation to Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee:	
FY 2007 Budget Authority .....	8,032
FY 2007 Outlays .....	8,254
FY 2008 Budget Authority .....	10,432
FY 2008 Outlays .....	9,182
FY 2008–2012 Budget Authority .....	62,319
FY 2008–2012 Outlays .....	59,073

RECONCILIATION PROVISIONS—H.R. 2669

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, as chairman of the Committee on the Budget, pursuant to section 313 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I submit to the Senate the following list of reconciliation provisions considered to be extraneous under the Byrd rule, to be printed in the RECORD.

PROVISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE REPORT ACCOMPANYING H.R. 2669, THE COLLEGE ACCESS AND COST REDUCTION ACT, WHICH ARE EXTRANEUS PURSUANT TO THE BYRD RULE  
None.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD my letter to Senator BYRD regarding my absence for rollcall vote No. 315.

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

U.S. SENATE,  
Washington, DC, September 6, 2007.

Hon. ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President Pro Tempore, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Mr. President, due to my presence at a critically important Armed Services Committee hearing regarding the Iraq war, I was unavoidably absent during rollcall vote No. 315. This vote concerned Senator Brown's amendment No. 2673 to the Military Construction-Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill. I was questioning committee witnesses at the time the floor vote was called, and I abbreviated my questioning in order to arrive for the vote. However, I arrived on the floor shortly after the vote concluded. Had I been present, I would have supported Senator Brown's amendment, which I cosponsored. That amendment prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs from outsourcing certain VA jobs to private contractors.

Sincerely,

JIM WEBB,  
U.S. Senator.

## HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

MASTER SERGEANT SCOTT M. CARNEY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sorrow that I speak today in honor of a fallen soldier. American hero MSG Scott M. Carney was killed in military operations on August 24, 2007. My deepest sympathy and prayers go out to Scott's wife Jeni and twin sons Jacob and Justin. I also express sincere sympathy and gratitude to his parents Geneva and John Carney and his brothers and sister.

An Ankeny, IA, resident, Scott was killed during a humvee rollover near Herat, Afghanistan. Scott was a member of the Iowa National Guard's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Division out of Boone, IA. Scott enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1989 and had been a member of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team since 2004.

Scott will be fondly remembered and missed dearly. His wife described Scott by saying he "died doing what he loved, serving his country and protecting the freedom that we enjoy and providing the people of Afghanistan with the opportunity for freedom." I know I speak on behalf of all Iowans when I express gratitude for Scott's 18 years of military service. While I speak today with great sorrow, I also speak with great pride; pride in having soldiers like Scott, willing to make the ultimate sacrifice.

A fellow soldier lent an apt description of Scott when he said "the Army was his life. He loved his family dearly and was a great family member. He was also part of the team." I ask all Americans to spend a moment today in prayerful gratitude for the family of a true American patriot, fallen hero MSG Scott M. Carney.

## MATTHEW SHEPARD ACT OF 2007

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 the night of August 9, 2007, three friends with developmental disabilities were verbally assaulted by four teens as they left a Cheektowaga, NY, restaurant. Two of the friends, a 22-year-old local man and his 19-year-old girlfriend, got into their vehicle and began to drive away. The teens continued to taunt the couple with derogatory names for the developmentally disabled. The four youths drove after the couple in two cars, reportedly swerving repeatedly at the victims' car and nearly hitting it. The disabled couple's car crashed as they tried to turn onto the Cheektowaga Thruway, causing significant damage to their vehicle. According to witnesses, the crash happened after the victim sped up to get away from the attackers' vehicles. The

teens sped away, but thanks to witnesses and restaurant surveillance tapes, the police were able to apprehend the teens. Three of them were charged with perpetrating a hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

## ILLICIT GLOBAL SMALL ARMS TRADE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, illegally traded small arms and light weapons are cheap and readily available in many areas of the world. These weapons contribute to instability and violence in developing regions, creating fertile breeding grounds for rogue actors, undisciplined militias, and even terrorists. Confronting the threat of global terrorism requires a multifaceted approach which should include efforts to curb the illegal small arms trade while promoting programs that destroy surplus and obsolete weapons so they are taken out of circulation world-wide.

The M-16 and the AK-47, both automatic rifles, and shoulder launched surface-to-air missiles, called Man-Portable Air Defense Systems, or MANPADS, are the most commonly traded weapons in the estimated \$1 billion a year illegal arms trade. I am not talking about legal and vetted government to government transfers; I am talking about the illicit arms trade that results in these weapons ending up, frequently, in the most lawless regions of the world and in places where they could be used to attack U.S. troops.

I have just returned from a trip to Africa, where I saw firsthand the devastating toll these weapons have had in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC, as well as in northern Uganda. The eastern part of DRC, despite that country's successful election last summer, is rife with instability and small arms are the weapons of choice. I saw how they are used to destabilize communities and how they wreak havoc on innocent civilians. I visited a center for ex-combatants in Bunia, in the Ituri region of North Kivu, and saw the newly disarmed soldiers beginning the process of "re-entering" life without a weapon. The U.N. agency running this program had already removed the child soldiers but many of the former soldiers I saw looked exceedingly young. They couldn't have been much older than 18 or 20 and yet there they were receiving a second chance at life—a chance to live free of violence.

In Iraq, the illicit small arms trade supplies insurgent groups that continue to hamper U.S.-led efforts to stabilize and rebuild the country. In Afghanistan, illegally obtained small arms are used by warlords to attack U.S. troops and maintain areas of ref-

uge for terrorists. Much of the recent violence that has plunged Somalia into chaos has been carried out by extremists with automatic rifles. In Colombia, narcoterrorist paramilitary operations, including kidnappings and the murder of hostages, are fueled by a steady flow of small arms that are smuggled into the country. The influx of small arms into Darfur, much of which is in violation of a U.N. arms embargo, has helped perpetuate the conflict between the Sudanese government, associated Janjaweed militias, and the numerous rebel factions. Many other countries in sub-Saharan Africa—including Angola, and Liberia—have been profoundly impacted as they became victims to decades of brutal war perpetuated by these illegal arms flows.

I am pleased that the President requested, the House passed, and the Senate Appropriations Committee has provided, over \$44 million for the Small Arms and Light Weapons Destruction Program in Fiscal Year 2008. This is a significant increase for a much-needed and very successful initiative. Indeed, since 2001, this program has helped 25 countries destroy over 1 million weapons that might have otherwise have been used to create unrest and chaos.

The fight against global terrorism remains the highest national security priority of the United States. The illegal global trade and ensuing use of small arms and light weapons clearly destabilizes regions that extremists and terrorists can then use as safe havens in which to operate. The United States must do all it can to curtail the illegal small arms trade world-wide while it works to simultaneously eliminate the conditions that breed extremism and instability. The Small Arms and Light Weapons Destruction Program is a critical component in that fight.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

## TRIBUTE TO SUN YET WONG

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, today the National Reconnaissance Office, NRO, is honoring two individuals, Dr. Paul G. Kaminski and Mr. Sun Yet Wong, who have made significant contributions to the discipline of national reconnaissance. They will be inducted as members of Pioneer Hall. This prestigious award bestowed to 71 people is the NRO's highest honor.

Of these two individuals, I am honored to know Mr. Wong and I wish to congratulate him on being selected by the NRO for the 2007 Class of Pioneers. The work of technological revolutionaries, such as Mr. Sun Yet Wong, has made significant and lasting contributions to the discipline of national reconnaissance, and has set the stage for future advancements in the field. His efforts have helped advance technology by contributing to the effectiveness of