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PN1402 NAVY nominations (4) beginning JACOB R. HILL, and ending WILLIAM R. WOODFIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 21, 2010.

PN1417 NAVY nominations (11) beginning DAVID W. TERHUNE, and ending DET R. SMITH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

PN1418 NAVY nominations (30) beginning ERIC R. AKINS, and ending SCOTT T. WILBUR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2010.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to a disease that is devastating to women nationwide. In 2009, the National Cancer Institute at NIH reported that cervical cancer was diagnosed in 11,250 women, and more than 4,000 women died from the disease. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, estimates that \$2 billion per year is spent on treatment of cervical cancer. Access to regular screening would not only prevent the disease in most cases, but would be a mere fraction of the cost of treatment.

Cervical cancer is mainly caused by HPV, a virus that currently infects about 20 million Americans. Another 6 million people become newly infected each year. By educating women and making regular Pap tests, HPV tests and the HPV vaccine affordable and accessible, we can significantly decrease the number of cases of cervical cancer in this Nation.

This message was brought to me last week by one of my constituents, Ms. Tamika Felder, and her "friends," a remarkable group of women who visited Capitol Hill to promote awareness of cervical cancer. Tamika was a successful young television producer in Washington, DC. At the age of 25, Tamika went to the doctor for a routine Pap test. She hadn't been to the doctor for a few years, partly due to a lack of health insurance. Her results came back, and the diagnosis was what she calls "the shock of her life"—advanced cervical cancer. As Tamika struggled to come to terms with her diagnosis, she became depressed and retreated from most of her friends. She could

only think about the end of her life, and the dreams that would go unfulfilled.

Doctors recommended a radical hysterectomy, which left Tamika heartbroken, knowing that she would never be able to give birth to children. Rounds of chemotherapy and radiation followed, and Tamika struggled to stay positive. She credits amazing family, friends, and coworkers with helping her through this difficult time. She emerged cancer-free, and is a 5-year survivor.

As Tamika was undergoing treatment, she spent a lot of time educating herself about HPV and cervical cancer, and her friends did the same. They learned that the disease was preventable, and they needed to get that message out to women around the country. Thus, the nonprofit organization Tamika and Friends was born. Tamika and Friends is based in Upper Marlboro, MD, and is dedicated to raising awareness about cervical cancer and its links to HPV.

Using the network of survivors and friends that they have established, they spread the essential message that through education, prevention, and treatment, cervical cancer can be entirely eliminated. They share their message in creative ways, including house parties that create a comfortable environment for women to have open discussions about HPV and cervical cancer and its causes. Their Web site has many survivors' stories to encourage other women that share their diagnosis.

When I learned that one of the reasons that Tamika did not have a regular Pap test was that she lacked health insurance, my conviction that we must achieve universal health coverage was strengthened. Her story is one of many that we have heard over the past year that emphasizes the critical need to cover the uninsured. If Tamika had had access to proper preventive testing, then her cancer might have been caught at an earlier stage. She may not have needed a radical hysterectomy, and her ability to have children, which she held so dear, might have been preserved.

The health care reform legislation passed by the Senate would ensure that women can afford a yearly Pap test. In the bill, preventive services for women, including a yearly exam and cervical cancer screenings are covered at no cost to patients. In addition, as part of the managers' amendment, the provision that I introduced as part of a Patients' Bill of Rights will allow women to designate an OB-GYN as their primary care physician. This will enable women to receive care from a physician that specializes in women's health and can reinforce efforts to educate women about the causes of cervical cancer and the importance of getting regular Pap and HPV tests.

To successfully eradicate cervical cancer, we must acknowledge and address that racial and ethnic minorities

are disproportionately affected. Cervical cancer is diagnosed at an early stage more often in Whites than in Blacks, and Black women have higher rates of mortality from cervical cancer than White women. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Hispanic women were twice as likely as White women to be diagnosed with cervical cancer, and the rates of cervical cancer among Vietnamese American women are higher than those for any other ethnicity—more than five times higher than White women. These statistics highlight why it is so important to codify the Offices of Minority Health within HHS and its agencies. I advocated for this to be part of the managers' amendment to the Senate health care bill, and I will continue to push for it to be included in the health care reform legislation that is signed by President Obama.

I come to the floor today to raise awareness about cervical cancer and the need to cover preventive services for women, and to commend and thank Tamika and her friends for their efforts to educate all women about what they can do to remain healthy. Tamika's story could have been one of tragedy, but instead, she has turned it into a story of inspiration, strength, and hope.

In one of the informational brochures that Tamika and Friends hands out to women is a message from Tamika herself. It says "No matter how busy or broke you think you are—whether you have insurance or not—you must never, ever skip your Pap test and HPV test." As Members of the U.S. Senate, it is within our power to help women like Tamika and make sure that a lack of health insurance is not a barrier for women's health. We can all do our part to prevent cervical cancer and other diseases that can be caught early with proper preventive care.

SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING REVITALIZATION ACT

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I rise today to discuss the Small Business Contracting Revitalization Act of 2010. This critical piece of legislation is the direct result of consensus-building and compromise, and continues the bipartisan tradition of the Small Business Committee. I also wish to thank Chair LANDRIEU for her partnership with me in forging this truly crucial measure as we work toward contracting parity for small business, and for her tireless leadership on all concerns confronting small businesses today.

The Small Business Revitalization Act of 2010 retains critical procurement provisions that originate in the comprehensive contracting bills I introduced or cosponsored in the 109th and 110th Congresses which were unanimously voted out of the Small Business Committee. This particular legislation

will serve to minimize the use of contract bundling and consolidation of contracts by the Federal Government, and increase the ability of small businesses to fairly compete for such contracts through a host of key improvements, including allowing small businesses to join together in teams to bid on certain procurement opportunities. Additional requirements will help to ensure prompt payment from prime contractors to subcontractors, and make it easier for the Federal government to prosecute businesses who fraudulently identify themselves as small companies.

Since the mid-1990s, with the enactment of acquisition streamlining reforms and the downsizing of the Federal procurement workforce, small businesses have faced a litany of hurdles that have deprived them of Federal contracting dollars. One such impediment is contract bundling which takes contracting opportunities out of the hands of deserving small businesses by grouping numerous small contracts and bundling them into one large award. Ill-equipped to manage the demands of these consolidated awards due to a lack of resources, small business owners again find themselves crowded out of the Federal contracting process. Consequently, the bipartisan measure we are introducing reflects the recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office, GAO, to impose stricter reviews and more comprehensive reporting of bundled contracts, encourages small business teaming to bid on larger contracts, and promotes Federal agency publishing and use of best practices. Additional obstacles to successful small business contracting include “bait and switch” tactics used by prime contractors who use small firms in developing bids but do not subcontract with them once a contract has been awarded. Our bill will address this concern as well as other ongoing problems such as large businesses posing as small businesses, flawed reporting data, and agencies who fail to meet their small business contracting goals.

As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I am further dismayed by the myriad ways that government agencies have time and again egregiously failed to meet the vast majority of their small business statutory “goalings” requirements. It is unconscionable that the statutory goal for only one category of small business—small disadvantaged businesses—has been met, and that goals for the three other programs HUBZones, women-owned small businesses, and service-disabled veterans-owned businesses—have never been achieved.

Consider that, in 2007, small businesses were eligible for \$378 billion in Federal contracting awards, yet received only \$83 billion. This blatant failure to utilize small businesses, thus preventing them to secure their fair share of Federal contracting dollars,

has resulted in firms losing billions of dollars in contracting opportunities. But 23 percent is only a base goal. We must strive to exceed it, not just meet it.

In the last 2 years alone, the Small Business Committee has held numerous hearings and roundtables to identify and explain small business’ contracting concerns. In addition, the GAO and the Small Business Administration’s, SBA, inspector general have issued multiple reports addressing small business Federal contracting deficiencies. Our legislation builds on the contracting provisions of previous Small Business Committee contracting bills by endowing the SBA with additional tools to meet the demands of an ever-changing 21st century contracting environment.

That said, I am greatly encouraged by the latest statistics relating to Federal contracting dollars awarded to small businesses from the funds appropriated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, ARRA. Preliminary reports show that as of February 1, 2010, small businesses have received over 29 percent of the ARRA Federal contracting dollars, well exceeding the imposed 23 percent statutory goal. This begs the question, if the Federal Government can not only meet but exceed these requirements for the Recovery Act, why can’t these goals be met year in and year out? The simple answer is they can. I am hopeful this administration will make a conscious effort to reverse the government-wide failure to meet small business goals on a consistent basis.

I am confident that this legislation will result in the changes necessary to reduce fraud and waste while paving the way for the Federal Government to maximize the use of America’s innovative small businesses in the contracting arena. Again, I want to recognize Senator LANDRIEU for her leadership in this matter and for her continuing commitment to the small business community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE ALBANY AREA YMCA

• Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the Albany Area YMCA on the occasion of its 100th anniversary.

On October 25, 1909, 100 businessmen met at the New Albany Hotel for the purpose of establishing and building a YMCA in Albany. Five days later, the campaign, led by Judge F.F. Putney, was successful in raising \$30,000.

Just 1 year later, the vision became a reality, and the first YMCA building in Albany opened its doors at the corner of Pine and Jefferson.

Since its inception in 1910, the Albany Area YMCA has been an important part of life for residents of southwest Georgia.

Just last year, more than 30,000 people were involved in the YMCA, wheth-

er it was coaching baseball, participating in the 5K runs or volunteering at the food drives.

I have been to the Albany Area YMCA several times and I am always impressed by the new community initiatives and programs taking place there.

The YMCA has always been committed to challenging boys and girls to think beyond themselves and to set goals—and it is this focus on character development that has helped strengthen the community.

As a former volunteer and past president of the Moultrie YMCA, I have a special appreciation for the great work the volunteers are doing. And they ought to be commended for their tremendous efforts.

For 100 years, YMCA volunteers have helped children develop themselves as honest, respectful, caring and responsible individuals.

Additionally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Dave Wallace, who has made a tremendous impact on the Albany Area YMCA while serving as the executive director.

I have had the good fortune of knowing Dave for several years. The YMCA has flourished under his leadership—and I have no doubt he has touched many lives throughout his tenure there.

Over the years, the Albany Area YMCA has relocated, expanded and changed in many aspects, but it has never steered away from its mission “to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all.”

Once again, I would like to offer my congratulations and appreciation to the Albany Area YMCA on this very special occasion. ●

RECOGNIZING THE NORRIS STEVENS FAMILY

• Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I congratulate the Norris Stevens family for being named the Drew County Farm Family of the Year for 2009.

I have felt a long kinship with Drew County, and I am grateful for the friendships I have made there. I have many fond memories visiting the Drew County Courthouse, where my southern Arkansas field office was located when I was first elected to the U.S. Senate.

As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer’s daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our farm families. Agriculture is the backbone of Arkansas’s economy, creating more than 270,000 jobs in the State and providing \$9.1 billion in wages and salaries. In total, agriculture contributes roughly \$15.9 billion to the Arkansas economy each year.

Mr. President, our farm families are critical to our Nation’s economic stability. We must work to continue the farm family tradition, so families such