

Clearly, we have a lot of work to do, but this important legislation will help us be smarter about community-based care that will keep people out of the emergency rooms and out of our jails, keeping them from becoming the mental health clinics of last resort.

As Chris Imhoff, an official with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, remarked:

It's exciting for a community when something like this happens. . . . It helps us not strand people with psychiatric emergencies in emergency rooms, which is a good thing.

That is why this legislation is taking us in the right direction. So again, I thank the Senators from Michigan and Missouri for their leadership on this legislation. It is so important we got it passed, and, hopefully, now it will move towards the President's desk and implementation.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CANTWELL. 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.

WORLD WATER DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, March 21 was the 21st anniversary of World Water Day. On this day, we call attention to the centrality of water in our lives and communities, and we recognize the vital work that must continue to ensure that every person has access to clean water and sanitation.

The acute challenges in improving access to clean water and sanitation in developing countries are well known. Nearly 800 million people lack clean water and more than 2 billion people are without basic sanitation. In a world of increasing water scarcity and climate unpredictability, the risks associated with an unstable water supply will only intensify. A wide assortment of global health and development challenges can be traced directly, or indirectly, to a lack of access to clean water and integrated water resource management.

In recent years, the depth and pervasiveness of these problems have gained increasing attention. In 2000, the U.S. signed the Millennium Development Goals, one of which seeks to halve the number of people without access to clean water and basic sanitation by 2015. This attention has also led to the formation of international partnerships such as Water and Sanitation for All in 2012, of which the United States is an active member. As projections stand now, the MDG clean water target has already been met while there is still a long way to go in reaching the sanitation goal by 2015.

The United States has long been a leader in supporting efforts to improve global access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and water resource

management. The Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, a bill which I strongly supported, was the first major legislation enacted to make access to clean water and sanitation a U.S. foreign policy priority. Each year, as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations, I have included increasing amounts of funding to implement the Paul Simon Act.

We should reflect on the legacy of the late Senator Simon and take a moment to recognize and appreciate his contributions to making clean water a development priority. His work is carried on through the programs and policies of the legislation that bears his name.

On World Water Day, we should also recognize the indispensable work that has been done by governments, NGO's, and private companies to provide access to clean water and sanitation. I have visited Haiti three times in recent years to inspect the work of rebuilding crucial infrastructure, shattered by the earthquake. My wife Marcelle worked for many years as a registered nurse. In 2012 she saw, firsthand, some of these vital clean water and sanitation initiatives. A nonprofit organization, Pure Water for the World, based in Rutland, VT, implements a sustainable model for clean water programs in developing countries by building low-cost water filtration systems, installing latrines to improve sanitation, and providing hygiene education in local communities.

We must also realize how much work is still left to do in this area of development, and understand that to tackle 21st century problems we need innovative solutions. The release of the U.S. Agency for International Development's new water strategy last year was an important step, especially with its focus on sustainability and enhanced monitoring and evaluation of projects.

I will continue to support USAID's work to carry out its mission and the strategic objectives in the water strategy. More than \$365 million was included for WASH programs in the 2014 omnibus appropriations bill that was signed into law on January 17. Congress should also pass the Water for the World Act, which would give USAID additional tools to address these critical issues.

Lastly, I want to highlight the theme of this year's World Water Day, which is "water and energy." The links between water and energy cannot be ignored. Nearly eight percent of all global energy is used to transport, pump, and treat water for a variety of consumers, while energy generation and transmission also requires massive water resources. With more than a billion people also lacking access to electricity, we need to address both these issues together.

World Water Day reminds us how fortunate we are in the United States to be able to turn on a faucet and have clean water, because for many hun-

dreds of millions of people this luxury is not close to a reality. While we have made progress in bringing clean water and sanitation to millions across the world, there is still much work to be done.

GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on March 14, 2014, a popular teacher named Michelle Wilcox got into an argument. People get into arguments all the time. It is part of life. But this argument ended, as all too many do around our Nation, in tragedy: suddenly, the man with whom Ms. Wilcox had been arguing pulled out a firearm, chased after her, shot her, and left her body in a grassy patch near a preschool.

In this case, as in so many others, the presence of a gun turned an ordinary altercation into a horrific murder. Had a firearm not been present, Ms. Wilcox might have been able to walk away that fateful morning—frustrated, angry, but alive. Instead, she was murdered, her husband of 12 years now awaits trial, and their child has lost its mother. A momentary bad decision ended one life and has irrevocably changed so many more.

We may not know if anything could have prevented this tragedy, but we do know that this grim scene repeats itself all around our Nation, almost every day. Statistics compiled by the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence show an indisputable correlation between domestic violence incidents and firearms: that, for instance, abused women are "five times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser owns a firearm." Other statistics indicate that domestic violence assaults involving a gun are "23 times more likely to result in death" than those involving other weapons, and that over "two-thirds of spouse and ex-spouse homicide victims in a 28-year span were killed with firearms." And in 2011, almost two-thirds of women killed with guns were killed by their intimate partners.

These sad figures show the importance of keeping firearms out of the hands of domestic abusers. But all too often, our Nation's system to prevent such dangerous individuals from getting guns fails. It failed in the case of Christen Naujoks, a student at the University of North Carolina. For a brief time in 2004, Ms. Naujoks dated another student, John Peck, before ending the relationship. Mr. Peck had previously been convicted of sexually assaulting another woman, and as a result was legally prohibited from purchasing a gun. This didn't stop him, however, from exploiting a loophole in current law that allows individuals to purchase guns from private sellers' without undergoing a background check. Mr. Peck bought an assault rifle from a private seller, and on June 4, 2004, murdered Ms. Naujoks by shooting her 11 times in front of her apartment building. Three days later, Mr.

Peck committed suicide during a police shootout.

There is legislation pending before the Senate that, if enacted, could prevent future convicted domestic abusers from evading background checks to buy murder weapons. These bills could be the critical difference in preventing another domestic argument from becoming something so much worse. We owe it to the memory of victims of domestic violence around this country to take every step possible to prevent similar incidents in the future. I urge my colleagues to pass gun safety legislation that closes the gun show loophole.

2014 OLYMPIANS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, every 4 years elite athletes from across the globe gather together to share their prodigious talent and skill with a world audience through friendly competition. This year's Winter Games in Sochi, Russia was no different. Indeed, it is a tradition families across the Nation have gathered together to watch on TV and shared for generations.

We are transfixed by the Winter Olympics and the athletes who take part for many reasons. We enjoy the intense competition that is the hallmark of the games. We enjoy the gravity-defying athletes who only seem to get more daring with each passing year. And, we enjoy the speed and precision that is required to excel at the Olympic level. There are also many personal and heartwarming stories of triumph and perseverance that are highlighted at the games. They remind us of what is possible. We witness athletes both in victory and defeat, but always at their best. We admire their journey and the Olympic spirit that is embodied by each of them.

To become an Olympian is no easy task. Each athlete has sacrificed much to earn a spot at the Olympics. These games and the performances we bear witness to are often the capstone of careers that have spanned many years and are the product of an enormous amount of training, dedication, and focus. This year, as in years past, we glimpsed into the lives of these athletes, which includes parents, coaches and family members who shaped these athletes from the very beginning, spending countless hours and effort in training, travelling from competition to competition, and molding young athletes into the competitors we see before us.

The Winter Olympics seamlessly blends the events and traditions we have come to enjoy for many years with newer, fresher disciplines that leave us in awe and bravely test our limits. Young people are shaped by these moments. Some will even grow up and follow this impressive path.

Michigan was well-represented at the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. One area where Michigan shined was in ice dancing. Impressively, 15 of the 24 teams

participating in the ice dancing trained in metro Detroit in one of three rinks: the Detroit Skating Club, Novi Ice Arena, and Arctic Edge in Canton, which is where the Gold and Silver Medal teams trained. This reflects the level of coaching and talent that resides in Michigan.

There were many inspired performances at these games. Fittingly, the couple that captured our imagination for the second straight Olympic Games, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, capped their Olympic career with a captivating, Gold Medal performance in ice dancing, adding this to their Silver Medal performance in 2010 and their team Bronze in Sochi. The list of ice dancers with strong ties to Michigan is long and includes Maia Shibutani, Alex Shibutani, Evan Bates, Madison Chock, Tessa Virtue, Scott Moir, Kaitlyn Weaver, Andrew Poje, Alexandra Paul, Mitch Islam, Anna Cappellini, Luca Lanotte, Charlene Guignard, Marco Fabbrì, Nathalie Pechalat, Fabian Bourzat, Pernelle Carron, Lloyd Jones, Nelli Zhiganshina, Alexander Gazsi, Julia Zlobina, Alexei Sitnikov, Isabella Tobias, Deividas Stagniunas, Danielle O'Brien, Greg Merriam, Cathy Reed and Chris Reed.

Olympic hockey also showcased the talent Michigan has to offer. Players with ties to Michigan represented a number of different countries. They included Americans Ryan Miller, Ryan Kessler, Cam Fowler, Jimmy Howard, Patrick Kane, Phil Kessel, Justin Faulk, Kevin Shattenkirk, Ryan Suter, James van Riemsdyk, Max Pacioretty and Dan Bylsma. Those who skated for other countries included Henrik Zetterberg, Daniel Alfredsson, Niklas Kronwall, Jonathon Ericsson, Johan Franzen, Jonas Gustavsson, Pavel Datsyuk, Tomas Tatar, Tomas Jurco, Duncan Keith, Chris Kunitz, Mike Babcock and Brian Lebler. Each made a significant contribution and provided us ample reason to be proud.

In addition to these incredible athletes are Narumi Takahashi, Ryuichi Kihara, Jeremy Abbott, Valentina Marchei and Patrick Chan who competed admirably in figure skating. Jessica Smith, Jilleanne Rookard, Shani Davis, Jordan Malone, Kyle Carr, Chris Crevelling and Anthony Lobello graced the speed skating track. And there were snowboarders Karly Shorr, Danny Davis and Nick Bumgartner whose style and flair was unmistakable.

Rounding out Michigan's contribution in Sochi was Lauryn Williams, a Summer Olympic star who became the first woman, and fifth person overall, to medal in both the Summer and Winter Olympics. Her Silver as part of a two-person bobsled team was one of the most memorable moments of the games.

I join many across Michigan in congratulating each of these athletes. It was gratifying to watch and reminds us all, especially young people across Michigan, that reaching for the stars, or in this case the Olympics, is firmly

within their grasp. As one Olympic figure skater so aptly put it, "To be able to come up here and feel stiff and white as a ghost but stare fear in the face is what I'm all about." That's the true Olympic spirit we tune in to watch, and that is a fitting way to describe the grit, grace, and athletic prowess we witnessed day after day in Sochi. This is why I am delighted to honor these athletes here today by placing their names in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO CATHY MYERS

Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and thank Cathy Myers—a valued member of my staff who left Senate service today after 35 years on Capitol Hill.

Cathy has worked in Congress since 1979 when she was hired to serve as a secretary in the office of Congressman Samuel Devine of Ohio. She subsequently held the same position in the office of Congressman Gene Snyder of Kentucky, and first came to the Senate in 1983, when she took a job as secretary to Senator Bob Kasten of Wisconsin.

In 1993, Cathy went to work for New Hampshire Senator Judd Gregg, serving as his executive assistant for 18 years. Senator Gregg is well-known in the Granite State for his service to constituents, and Cathy played an indispensable role in helping him stay in close contact with the people of New Hampshire.

When Senator Gregg retired, I was so pleased that she agreed to continue serving the people of New Hampshire as a member of my Washington staff. Cathy has been so helpful to me as I have gotten my Senate office up and running. She does a tremendous job keeping the trains running on time, and I have been so deeply grateful for her dedicated service.

During the 3 years Cathy worked as a member of my staff, I have also appreciated her personal warmth and generous spirit. Cathy is perhaps best known in my office for the candy dish she keeps on her desk, which is always stocked with chocolates. It is no secret that Cathy has a sweet tooth, and she has been so kind to share her candy with the rest of the office.

Cathy Myers has served the people of New Hampshire and the Senate with honor and distinction. On behalf of all those whose lives Cathy has touched in the Granite State and on Capitol Hill, I wish her the very best as she starts this new chapter in her life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Zev Yaroslavsky, who is retiring at the end of this year, after a distinguished and illustrious career spanning 40 years as a public servant in the State of California. We wish to extend to Mr. Yaroslavsky our sincere