

as Continuous Care Retirement Community.”

Dr. Ryan has served on numerous public policy and professional boards and recently participated as a member of the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Regulatory Reform. The committee made recommendations to the Secretary regarding potential regulatory changes that would reduce costs associated with departmental regulations and at the same time, maintain or enhance effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and accessibility.

Dr. Ryan's past achievements and continuing interests provide evidence of her commitment to excellence and her advocacy on issues facing the elderly and their caregivers. I join her many friends and professional colleagues in extending thanks for her previous work and best wishes for her next endeavor.

A FREE ZIMBABWE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, today I draw my colleagues' attention to the situation in Zimbabwe, where courageous citizens continue to protest the political repression and economic collapse that have plunged their country into crisis.

Since 2000, President Mugabe has made a series of decisions intended to tighten his grip on power regardless of the cost to the country, trampling on the independence of the judiciary, harassing the independent media, manipulating the political process, intimidating opposition supporters, destroying the economy, and exacerbating a food crisis. A very real and legitimate issue—the need for meaningful land reform—was for a time employed as a fig leaf for the regime. But it has long been clear that this government is not interested in justice, only in power.

Last week's general strike has been the latest manifestation of public dissatisfaction. Reports from the region indicate that security forces are violently suppressing efforts to demonstrate in the streets, using rubber clubs, rifle butts, water cannons, tear gas, and live ammunition to disperse crowds, according to the Associated Press. Some 300 people have been arrested, including opposition parliamentarians. At this difficult time, it is important that the people of Zimbabwe know that the world is watching, and that like the Zimbabweans demanding change, the international community has not lost hope for the country.

I was proud to work with the distinguished majority leader, Senator FRIST, on the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act, a bill which was passed into law in the last Congress. This legislation makes it clear that when the rule of law is restored in Zimbabwe, and when the civil and political rights of citizens are respected, the United States will come forward to help the country recover, rebuild. We will continue to fight the

AIDS pandemic that is taking such a terrible toll on Zimbabwean society. I look forward to the day when we can follow through on that commitment, Mr. President, and help Zimbabwe to realize its tremendous potential as an engine of growth and model of participatory democracy in the region. Time after time, news reports confirm that Zimbabwe is full of patriots—citizens who refuse to allow their country to be hijacked by a self-serving cabal, independent journalists who risk torture when they seek to report the truth rather than the ruling party line, parents who want their children to grow up in a Zimbabwe free from repression and corruption. These people deserve our support and our admiration.

NATIONAL SMALL CITIES DAY

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, the National League of Cities, led by Mayor Brenda Barger of Watertown, SD, has designated, June 20, 2003, as the third annual National Small Cities Day to call attention to the role of small cities and towns in American life.

The vast majority of cities throughout our Nation have populations of fewer than 50,000 people. These communities play an essential role in nurturing families, cultivating values, building a strong sense of commitment and connection, and ensuring safety and security.

Millions of Americans live better lives because small cities and towns provide services and programs that meet the needs of their citizens. Particularly during these difficult times in our Nation's history, these Americans have looked to the leaders of their small communities to ensure their safety and security. Partnering with other levels of government, small cities work hard to provide helpful and reliable information about national issues affecting hometown America, and to maintain confidence in our American way of life. Often, they carry out their vital responsibilities with limited staff and tight budgets but with enormous good will and close connections to the citizens they serve every day. The leaders of the Nation's small cities and towns are indeed on the front lines in addressing many of our Nation's most pressing problems.

Businesses, civic organizations, and citizens across the Nation are partners in strengthening hometown America, and must be encouraged to continue to support efforts that make these cities and towns such great places to live. The Federal Government, too, must continue to be a good partner by funding important Federal programs that support small cities and towns such as the Community Development Block Grant Program, the Community Oriented Policing Services Program, and local and regional homeland security planning and preparedness.

We must continue to work together and look for ways to further strength-

en our small cities and towns through creativity, innovation, and, above all, collaboration. I join the National League of Cities and the Small Cities Council in encouraging President Bush, my congressional colleagues, State governments, community organizations, businesses, and citizens to honor the efforts of “small town America” and renew our commitment to work together on this day and in the future to strengthen our small cities and towns, and to recognize their essential role in our intergovernmental partnership.

CONFLICT IN THE CONGO

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ituri Province. Recently, international attention has been focused on the alarming ethnic violence in the region, where thousands have been killed in the past year. Credible reports suggest that over 50,000 people have died in Ituri since 1999, and a half a million more have been displaced. For years, this horror was lost in the larger tragedy of Congo's conflict, in which over 4 million people are estimated to have lost their lives.

Clashes between Hema and Lendu militia forces in Ituri escalated recently as external actors fuel the fire with increasingly sophisticated arms and support, essentially waging proxy wars at the expense of Congolese civilians. The reports from the region are truly appalling, featuring horrific murders, mutilation, cannibalism, rape, and the use of child soldiers. The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo, which has no mandate or capacity to enforce peace, has been reduced to struggling to protect the civilians who have fled in desperation to U.N. sites in Bunia, but their capabilities are severely limited, and most civilians frantically searching for help and security are left with no help at all.

Congo's suffering is more than a humanitarian crisis. It is a massively destabilizing force in Africa. The war has drawn in other states and provided lucrative opportunities for international criminals. We cannot forget that our security is at risk when these shadowy forces are making gains.

The pattern of massive human rights abuses and constant destabilization has to stop. I recently offered an amendment to the foreign assistance authorization bill in the Foreign Relations Committee designed to bolster U.S. support for activities in central Africa aimed at pursuing justice and accountability, deterring abuses, and holding those responsible for such abuses accountable for their actions. That is one small step toward a constructive policy in the region over the long-term. But with regard to Ituri, the U.S. must take action urgently today.

On May 30, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution authorizing the Secretary-General to reinforce the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the northeastern town of Bunia. France has