

consent authority of Senators. JOE has seen how this part of the government—the people's branch—lives. He will assume his new job fresh from membership in the world's greatest deliberative body. Those Senate years will, I believe, serve him, the country, and the people, well.

Senator BIDEN is moving on, and while I regret losing him as a colleague here, I am heartened by the experience and wisdom he takes to his new duties. I believe that he will be a great Vice President. My good friend and former colleague, President-elect Obama showed outstanding judgment when he selected Senator JOE BIDEN to be his running mate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the regular order is that HILLARY CLINTON was to be recognized at 11 o'clock. There are a lot of people who want to say some things about Senator BIDEN and HILLARY CLINTON. We have votes scheduled at noon. So I would ask the Chair, under the order, to recognize the Senator from New York, Mrs. CLINTON.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York is recognized.

FAREWELL ADDRESS

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I am once again, and, if confirmed, for the last time, honored, privileged, and proud to address you as a Senator from the great State of New York; to stand in this Chamber; to be amongst my colleagues with whom I have won legislative victories, suffered defeats, and made lasting friendships; to serve my fellow New Yorkers; to speak amidst the echoes of historic and fiery debates which have shaped the destiny and promoted the progress of this great Nation for more than two centuries.

And I am gratified by the overwhelming support and vote of confidence from my colleagues on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and I look forward to working with them and continuing the conversation we began on Tuesday. And of course, I am so eager to continue working closely with my friend, and the Vice President-elect, JOE BIDEN.

I have loved being part of the Senate, working alongside public servants of both parties who bring to bear their expertise and enthusiasm to the difficult, painstaking, and occasionally contentious work of turning principle into policy and policy into law. And I assure you I will be in frequent consultation and conversation with my colleagues here in the Senate.

I also have been so fortunate to have what is, objectively, the best Senate staff, both in Washington and in New York that has ever been assembled, led and inspired by my Chief of Staff and friend, Tamera Luzzatto.

In outlining the purpose of the world's greatest deliberative body, the

authors of the Federalist Papers wrote that in part the Senate's role would be to avert the consequences of "sudden and violent passions" and "intemperate and pernicious resolutions."

Well, I think each of us at times has wished that the Senate would be ever so slightly less "temperate." But it is to the lasting credit and everlasting wisdom of our Founders that we come together, representatives of every State, members of both parties and neither party, in the hopes of finding common ground on which to build a stronger, safer, smarter, fairer, and more prosperous country for our children and our grandchildren.

As I look back on 8 years of service here, and as I have spoken with many of you in recent days about the challenges that lie ahead, I find myself reflecting on the work we have done as well as the work that remains at this moment of tumult and transformation.

I asked the people of New York to take a chance on me. To grant me their trust and their votes. In the years since, as our economy has grown more interconnected and the world more interdependent, and as New York has faced challenges amongst the greatest in our State and Nation's history, I have worked hard to keep faith with my fellow New Yorkers.

I remember when I first arrived in the Senate. There were a few skeptics. Many wondered what kind of Senator I would be. I wondered where the elevators were. But I believed my charge on behalf of the people of New York and the Nation was to devote myself fully to the task at hand. So I got to work.

No sooner had I taken office, 9 short months into my first term, the Nation was attacked on 9/11. The toll was devastating and New York would bear the heaviest burden. Nearly 3,000 lives were lost. The World Trade Center lay in ruins. A toxic cloud of debris and poison rained down over first responders, building and construction trades workers, residents, students, and others.

We all remember as citizens and Senators the sense of common purpose that arose as if to extinguish the hate and violence that took so many innocent lives. In particular, I want to point out the many kindnesses of my fellow members who offered their words, and deeds, in support of the people of New York.

In one moving gesture, Senators sent staff members to help answer the ringing phones in our office as New Yorkers struggled to track down family members and turned to our offices for help. I am also grateful to Senator ROBERT BYRD who said at my State's hour of need, "Think of me as the third Senator of New York."

I remember visiting Ground Zero on September 12th with my colleague, Senator SCHUMER, to personally survey the devastation and to thank the first responders who were working night and day, in danger and difficulty, on what would become known as "the Pile."

The air was acrid. Thick smoke made it hard to breath.

We knew then that there would be lasting health problems for first responders, volunteers, workers, and others who rushed to provide assistance following the attacks.

Two days later, Senator SCHUMER and I went to the Oval Office and secured a commitment from President Bush for \$20 billion in Federal aid for New York's recovery. In the years that would follow, Senator SCHUMER and I would fight successfully to ensure that money was delivered as promised.

In this and every instance, I have been grateful to have had Senator CHARLES SCHUMER as a partner and ally. New Yorkers could not ask for a more effective and determined Senator to fight for them. And I feel fortunate that if I miss seeing my friend CHUCK, I can turn on the television to catch his latest Sunday press conference.

Over the past 7 years, in a fight that continues, we have worked to bring business back to downtown and to secure funding for programs to provide health screening, monitoring, and treatment for all those suffering health consequences as a result of the attacks.

We have at times clashed with the administration while holding firm to our commitment to these efforts.

And I have developed close and lasting relationships with many of the families of the victims of 9/11 who in their grief have come together to fight for health monitoring and for smarter policies to prevent future attacks.

Together, we advocated for the creation of the 9/11 Commission and for the successful implementation of its findings, including funding based on threat assessments and better resources for first responders.

These efforts would become a model for finding common ground where possible, and standing your ground where necessary. For coordinating between Federal, State and local governments. For forging new partnerships between Government, academia, labor, and the private sector, and between members of both parties. A model for decisions based on sound evidence and solid facts, and for achieving results.

This is how we approached many of the economic challenges facing New York. So many New Yorkers have lost jobs, or have seen their jobs paying less and their benefits covering less than before.

I have met many who have lost health care or seen their premiums double. Who are unable to afford a college education or find good work, or pay rising mortgage bills. Who feel as though the hardworking middle class in this country experience the risk but not the reward of a global economy.

So I have worked hard to help make investments in New York's economy, by coauthoring a law to expand renewal zone tax incentives for new jobs across upstate New York; helping to raise the minimum wage; working to extend unemployment insurance; securing \$16.5 billion in transportation

funding; and increasing funds for Amtrak and high speed rail.

We passed legislation to create training programs for green-collar jobs that will help New York workers fill 21st century jobs that will in turn help end our dependence on foreign oil and fight climate change.

And we prevented the closure of military installations and facilities, including the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, Rome Labs, and the Defense Finances and Accounting Service in Rome, which keep our Nation safe and employ thousands in New York.

Even when we have faced obstacles, we have never given up. We have often promoted what President Franklin Delano Roosevelt called “bold, persistent experimentation.”

We helped expand broadband access across rural areas in the North Country.

We secured into law funding to retrofit trucks, school buses and other heavy vehicles with new clean diesel technologies developed in Corning and Jamestown.

In the Finger Lakes and North Country we partnered with eBay and local universities and companies to create 21st century co-ops that help small businesses get the micro-loans and training to reach global, not just local, markets.

In Rochester, we developed the first-ever Greenprint: a blueprint for how the city can harness its research institutions, innovative businesses, proactive local leaders, and talented workforce to become an even stronger clean energy leader.

We brought ArtSpace to Buffalo and secured funds for cultural centers like Proctors Theater in Schenectady, Stanley theater in Syracuse, and the Strand Theater in Plattsburgh, creating a model for urban revitalization and economic development centered on cultural projects.

I have worked to promote heritage tourism in places like Seneca Falls, home of the National Women's Hall of Fame and the site of the landmark Women's Rights Convention of 1848.

New Jobs for New York brought together more than 2,600 entrepreneurs, investors, and researchers across New York to obtain capital, share ideas, and grow New York businesses.

Farm to Fork created new markets for New York's agricultural producers in New York's restaurants, schools, and colleges. And our annual Farm Day here in the Capitol showcased New York farmers and vintners.

With investments in transportation to ease congestion and pollution on Long Island, in Westchester, and in the Hudson Valley, renewable energy and nanotechnology in the capital region's “Tech Valley,” biomedical research in Buffalo, Biotechnology in Syracuse, microcredit in the Finger Lakes, we have demonstrated to companies large and small that New York, with our talented workforce, world-class educational institutions, and affordable,

safe communities, is a wonderful place to do business. In fact, as you know, I recently took a detour through many of my colleagues' States where I had the opportunity to brag about New York and the kinds of innovative strategies we are putting into practice.

Some 8 years ago, I first spoke on the Senate floor. The topic was, to no one's surprise, health care. And in the years since, I have continued my commitment to achieving quality, affordable health care for all Americans, no exceptions, no excuses. I was proud to be part of the bipartisan coalition which passed the “Pediatric Rule” into law, ensuring that drugs are tested and labeled for safety and effectiveness in children.

We have expanded newborn screening. We were able to thwart the Bush administration's attempt to undercut community health clinics and broker a compromise to keep tens of millions of dollars in HIV/AIDS funding in New York through the Ryan White CARE Act.

Because of our work, groundbreaking legislation now provides respite care for family caregivers; safety measures to prevent tragic injuries to children in and around cars; new resources for grandparents and other kinship caregivers raising children; and more affordable college for students, particularly nontraditional students who are studying while working or raising a family.

I have also been proud to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee, the first New York Senator to do so, and to be the only Member of the Senate asked to serve on the U.S. Joint Forces Command's Transformation Advisory Group.

With my fellow members of the committee, we have expanded access to TRICARE for all drilling members of the Guard and Reserve; improved health tracking for servicemembers, especially important in treating complex, invisible injuries like post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury; and we have passed the first ever expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act so loved ones can take 6 months of leave to care for family members injured in service.

I have visited with members of the Armed Forces at military facilities across the State, including 10 visits to Fort Drum, and I have met with our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as those recovering at Walter Reed and at the military hospital in Landstuhl, Germany.

From the firefighters, police officers, and citizens who responded on September 11, to the men and women of the 10th Mountain Division, known as the most deployed division in the army, New Yorkers have answered the call to serve. I have worked hard to honor the principle that we should serve those who serve us.

I am proud of the progress we have made, often against tough obstacles and even tougher odds, under the lead-

ership of Senator HARRY REID who has led with intelligence and grit.

But of course there remains a long way to go.

The House has passed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act as well as the Paycheck Fairness Act on behalf of women and others seeking equal pay for equal work. I hope we can pass these bills into law. We have moved Health IT ever closer to the finish line, which holds so much potential for reducing waste, errors, and costs while creating whole new data sets for research and avenues for innovation.

I was dismayed when we were unable to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program to millions of uninsured children under the current President, though I am hopeful we will do so under the leadership of President-elect Obama. Providing health care for every single child, as we work toward coverage for every single American, is in our duty and in our reach.

There are so many other works in progress that I hope will be pursued by my fellow Senators. And I have spoken with many of you about taking on the mantle and continuing the work of legislation I have proposed over the past 8 years.

Finally, to my fellow New Yorkers, I want to express my profound gratitude. Thank you. I love being your Senator. Serving you has been the opportunity of a lifetime to continue the work of my life. To advocate on behalf of every single child's chance to live up to his or her God-given potential. To fight so that no one feels as though they are facing life's challenges alone, as if they were invisible.

And we have had fun. 8 State fairs, 45 parades, 62 counties, and more than 4,600 events across the State. But who is counting?

As I look back somewhat wistfully, and look forward hopefully, as I seek now to serve the country in a new role sustained by the same values that have motivated me for nearly four decades in public service, I am grateful to my colleagues in the Senate, to the superb Democratic staff, to my own staff here and across New York, to my supporters, and to the people of New York for this opportunity and responsibility that has meant the world to me.

I may not have always been a New Yorker. But know that I will always be one. New York, its spirit and its people, will always be part of me and part of the work I do.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues in the Senate, albeit if confirmed, in a new capacity, through this challenging time, at this defining moment, always with faith in my fellow Americans and optimism for all that we can achieve by working together.

Mr. President, I am so honored to be here at the same time with my friend and colleague whom I admire so much and have such great affection for, the Vice President-elect, JOE BIDEN.

I listened with enthusiasm and a lot of sentiment to the speech he delivered

a few minutes ago. And the way he evoked the Senate and the relationships that are developed here and the work that is done on behalf of our country was as good as I have ever heard it.

So I am deeply honored and privileged to be here with him and to address this Chamber as a Senator from the great State of New York, perhaps, if I am confirmed, for the very last time, and particularly amongst colleagues whom I have come to respect and like so much, and whose work I believe is always in the best interests of their States and their country, even when we are not in agreement.

I am gratified by the support and vote of confidence I received earlier this morning from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. And I am eager, should I be confirmed, to get to work with the President-elect and with the Vice President-elect and with all of you. I have loved being in the Senate working alongside public servants of both parties who bring their expertise and enthusiasm to the difficult, painstaking, and occasionally contentious work of turning principles into policy and policy into law.

I also have been fortunate during these past 8 years to have been served by what I objectively believe is the best Senate staff ever in Washington and throughout New York. This incredible group of people has been assembled, led, and inspired by my chief of staff and my friend, Tamera Luzzatto. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my remarks the names of all of those with whom I have worked over the last 8 years, because I could not be standing here speaking to you were it not for them.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mrs. CLINTON. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a catalog of the work and achievements which they have brought about.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See Exhibit 2.)

Mrs. CLINTON. In the Federalist Papers, we often hear the reference to the Senate's role, to avert the consequences of "sudden and violent passions" and "intemperate and pernicious resolutions."

Well, to the everlasting credit and wisdom of our Founders, we do come together in an effort to find common ground.

As I look back on my 8 years of service, I find myself reflecting on this tiny piece of Senate and American history. Some 10 years ago, I asked the people of New York to take a chance on me, to grant me their trust and their votes. In the years since, as our economy has grown more interconnected and the world more interdependent, I have worked to keep faith with my fellow New Yorkers.

I well remember, when I first arrived in the Senate, there were a few skeptics wondering what I would do and how I would do it. There were stalwart supporters and people such as my friend, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, who kind of read me the rules of the road and set me on my way.

No sooner had I figured out the way around the Senate, actually had just moved into my office, which all of our new colleagues will eventually be able to enjoy, and had gone off on my first August recess. I never, when I was on the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, understood why the Senate went on recess all the time. But after the intensity of the workload and the extraordinary pressure of both the work here in Washington and the constituency work in our States, I was thrilled and relieved to see that August recess roll around.

Shortly after we returned in 2001, our Nation was attacked on 9/11. The toll was devastating and New York bore the heaviest burden. Here I was, a very new Senator, and my city and my State had been devastated. Nearly 3,000 lives were lost, the World Trade Center in ruins, a toxic cloud of debris and poison raining down over our first responders and others.

I well remember the rallying of support and sense of common purpose that all of my colleagues and the citizens of all of the States represented here showed toward me personally and toward New York. Many of you offered not only kind words but specific deeds. Senators sent staff members to help answer the ringing phones in our office as New Yorkers struggled to track down family members or to seek aid.

I will never forget Senator ROBERT BYRD telling me at my State's hour of need, "Think of me as the third Senator from New York."

On September 12, my colleague CHUCK SCHUMER and I went to New York. As you recall, the roads were shut down, there was no way in or out of Manhattan other than by rail. The skies were clear. So CHUCK and I, in a plane provided by FEMA, were the only ones in the sky that day other than the fighters who were circling overhead.

We landed at La Guardia. We got into a helicopter to fly to the heliport on the west side of Manhattan, on the west side of the Hudson River. And then we proceeded, with the Governor, the mayor, and Federal officials to go toward the horror.

When we were circling in the helicopter above the World Trade Center site, we could see the smoke still coming up, because it was, of course, burning. And we could see the very fragile piles of scrap and steel teetering as firefighters, construction workers, tried to continue their search and rescue effort. That site was as close as I have ever seen to what Dante describes as hell.

It became known as "the Pile." CHUCK and I and our Government colleagues walked along one of the

streets, and could not even see beyond the curtain of blackness, and occasionally breaking through would come a firefighter, totally exhausted after having been on duty for 24 hours, dragging an axe, knowing already that friends and even family members had been lost.

The air was acrid. The thick smoke made it hard to breath. It burned your throat and your lungs. I knew then there would be lasting health problems for everyone who was exposed over any period of time to that air that carried so much death and destruction.

Two days later, Senator SCHUMER and I went to the Oval Office and secured a commitment from President Bush for \$20 billion in national aid for New York's recovery. In the years that would follow, he and I have stood side by side to fight for the successful delivery of that money as promised. In this and every instance, I am grateful to have had Senator SCHUMER as my partner and my ally. No one fights harder or is more determined, and even though I am leaving the Senate and we will no longer serve together, I know that whenever I am missing CHUCK, all I have to do is turn on the television, especially on Sunday in New York.

Over the past 7 years, thanks to so many of you, Senator INOUE, Senator COCHRAN, and others on the Appropriations Committee—I see Senator HARKIN and Senator MURRAY—you have been there with us as we have worked to recover.

I am very proud of the progress that has been made bringing New York back and securing funding for the essential programs to provide health screening and monitoring and treatment for all of those who still are suffering.

I have developed close and lasting relationships with many of the victims and the families of the victims of 9/11. I applaud and thank them for their courage and their fortitude in not only fighting for the health benefits that were so desperately needed but for the creation of the 9/11 Commission, for trying to do better on threat assessments, more resources for first responders, committed, despite their grief, to smarter policies to prevent future attacks on our Nation.

I see what we did together, and then quickly followed by that the anthrax attacks, and I remember with such incredible gratitude how we all came together. We should not only come together with that level of connection and commitment in time of disaster. This is an opportunity for us to pull together, with the new administration, to make a real difference, a lasting difference for our Nation. That is what I have tried to do as a Senator from New York.

It has been a privilege working to improve the upstate economy, working on behalf of the farmers of New York. I remember a short conversation one day with KENT CONRAD, BYRON DORGAN, TOM HARKIN, and MAX BAUCUS early after my arrival about how I wanted to help agriculture in New York.

They looked at me so quizzically and said, you have farmers in New York? I said, yes, in fact we do, about 30, 40 thousand family farms.

KENT CONRAD looked at me and he goes, you know, I do not believe that at all. So I gave a speech one day with a picture of a cow and said that this is a cow that lives on a farm, and the farm is in New York. We had a lot of fun kidding each other but working hard together.

I am grateful for the incredible efforts we made to support the people who do the hard work in New York and America, who get up every day and do the very best they can.

In the Finger Lakes region in the North Country, we helped to expand broadband access and partnered with eBay to create a way for people to have a global marketplace, when before the market was limited to a very small region of our State.

We looked for ways to retrofit trucks and schoolbuses and other heavy vehicles with new clean diesel technologies developed by two great companies in New York, in Corning and Jamestown, to clean up our environment.

We created the first ever greenprint for Rochester—a blueprint, really, for how the city can harness its extraordinary research institutions and their business leadership and others to come up with a way to be a clean energy leader.

We worked across the State to target investments from Bioinformatics in Buffalo to cultural icons such as the Stanley Theater in Utica. I took special pleasure in working with tourism because New York is such a great place of historic culture that I believed it needed to be given more support. For me, going to Seneca Falls, the home of the National Women's Hall of Fame and site of the landmark Women's Rights Convention, the first in the world in 1848, was a labor of love.

There is a lot to look back on with great nostalgia and a lot of excitement, but I want to look forward now because we are at a turning point. I know that very well, as all of you do. Our challenge will be to come together, putting aside partisan differences and even, insofar as we can, geographic differences to meet the challenges of our time. I know our two leaders are struggling to do that as we speak. But I think this could be one of the golden eras of the history of the Senate. This could be a time when people will look back and say: You know, you never can count America out. Whenever the chips are down, we always rise to the occasion. We figure out a way forward and then we make life better for our people. We extend peace and prosperity and progress throughout the world. I am very excited about what can happen in the next 4 years. There is a lot of work ahead of us, but I know the people in this Chamber are more than up to it.

Finally, to my fellow New Yorkers, I wish to express my profound gratitude. I loved being your Senator. Serving

you has been the opportunity of a lifetime. It gave me the chance to continue the work of my life, to advocate on behalf of every single child's chance to live up to his or her God-given potential, to fight hard for those who too often do feel invisible, to remedy wrongs, as I hope we will do either today or in the next few days to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act as well as the Paycheck Fairness Act, to do what we know will give our fellow Americans a better shot at the kind of future that is within their grasp.

I have had a lot of fun: 8 State fairs, 45 parades, 62 counties, more than 4,600 events across the State. I look back wistfully, and I look forward hopefully. I now, if confirmed, will have the high honor of serving our country in a new role, but I will be sustained and directed by the same values that have motivated me for nearly four decades in public service.

So to my colleagues in the Senate, thank you. You have been wonderful teachers and mentors and very good friends. And to the superb Democratic staff and their Republican counterparts who keep this Chamber going day-in and day-out no matter how late we are here and how long the workload turns out to be and to my own staff here and across New York, to my supporters, and, most of all, to the people of the great Empire State, I may not have always been a New Yorker, but I know I always will be one. New York, its spirit, and its people will always be part of me and of the work I do.

I look forward to continuing my association with this body. We have much to do over in Foggy Bottom. We need your help to kind of clear up the fog, to give us a chance to operate on all cylinders with the direction and the resources and the improved management techniques I hope to bring to the job.

This is a challenging and defining moment, but I will always keep faith in this body and in my fellow Americans. I remain an optimist, that America's best days are still ahead of us.

(Applause, Members rising.)

EXHIBIT 1

LIST OF SENATOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON'S STAFF, PAST AND PRESENT

Huma Abedin, Barbara Adair, Joshua Albert, Amanda Alcott, David Alexander, Lily Alpert, Karl Alvarez, Erin Ashwell, Kris Balderston, Brendan Ballard, Mary Catherine Beach, Kathleen Beale, Eric Bederman, Yael Belkind, Suzanne Bennett Johnson, John Biba, Nina Blackwell, Swathi Bojedla, Amy Bonitatibus Crowley, Victoria Brescillo.

M. Tracey Brooks, Catherine Brown, Colleen Burns, Daniel Burton, W. Case Button, Wendy Button, Gloria Cadavid, Emily Cain, Cathleen Calhoun, Jonathan Cardinal, Brian Carter, Joseph Caruso, Robin Chappelle, Dana Chasin, Bradford Cheney, Pamela Cicetti, James Clancy, Sarah Clark, Jennell Cofer Lynch, Elizabeth Condon.

Sean Conway, Sam Cooper, Theresia Cooper, Julie Dade Howard, Heather Davis, Jenny Davis, Samuel Davis, Trevor Dean, James Delapp, Amitabh Desai, Allison DiRienzo, Paula Domenici, Karen Dunn, Elanore Edson, Cleon Edwards, Diane Elmore,

Sarah England, Leecia Eve, Christine Falvo, Rebecca Fertig.

David Garten, Ann Gavaghan, Sarah Gegenheimer, Gigi Georges, Kate Geyer, Dayna Gibbons, Robyn Golden, Rebecca Goldenberg, Stacey Gordon, Jennifer Hanley, Monica Hanley, Beth Harkavy, Jennifer Harper, Jennifer Heater, David Helfenbein, Luis Hernandez, Eric Hersey, Christina Ho, Melissa Ho, Joe Householder.

Kara Hughes, Jehmal Hudson, Lucy Walker Irving, Lindsey Katherine Jack, Kelly James, Tiffany JeanBaptiste, Irene Jefferson, Lauren Jiloyt, Keren Johnson, LaToya Johnson, Michael Kanick, Jody Kaplan, Wendy Katz, Peter Kauffmann, Jim Keane, Elizabeth Kelley, Michelle Kessler, Yekyu Kim, Heather King, Joshua Kirshner.

Danielle Kline, Kathleen Klink, Benjamin Kobren, Justin Krebs, Jennifer Kritz, Michelle Krohn-Friedson, Laura Krolczyk, Grant Kevin Lane, Elizabeth Lee, Joyce Lenard, Alexandra Lewin, Andrew Lewis, Rachel Alice Lewis, Susan Lisagor, Eric Lovecchio, Jonathan Lovett, Frank Luk, Tamera Luzzatto, Ken Mackintosh, Sharyn Magarian.

Mickie Mailey, Jamie Mannina, Jaime Martinez, Ramon Martinez, Shalini Matani, Chelsea Maughan, Corinne McGown, Lorraine McHugh-Wytkind, Michelle Dianne McIntyre, Luz Mendez, Sheila Menz, Susan Merrell, Noah Messing, Lauren Montes, Gillian Mueller, Timothy Mulvey, David Mustra, Matthew Nelson, Ray Ocasio, Ellen Ochs.

Ann O'Leary, Alexis O'Brien, Kevin O'Neal, Sean O'Shea, Mildred Otero, Erica Pagel, Andrea Palm, Costas Panagopoulos, Paul Paolozzi, Kathryn Parker, Mira Patel, Charles Perham, Karen Persichilli Keogh, Joshua Picker, Kyla Pollack, Tyson Pratcher, Alice Pushkar, Murali Raju, Jeffrey Ratner, Kathy Read.

Philippe Reines, Robyn Rimmer, Brenda Ritson, Joleen Rivera, Melissa Rochester, Miguel Rodriguez, Rose Rodriguez, William Rom, Tracey Ross, Laurie Rubiner, Courtenay Ruddy, Mark Saavedra, Susie Saavedra, Joshua Schank, Daniel Schwerin, Kelly Severance Nelson, Ruby Shamir, Andrew Shapiro, Geraldine Shapiro, Jessica Shapiro.

Jyoti Sharma, Debra Simpson, Basil Smikle, Jake Smiles, Sarah Smith, Benjamin Souede, Phillip Spector, Joanna Spilker, April Springfield, Dileep Srihari, Anjuli Srivastava, Warren Stern, Deborah Swacker, Elise Sweeney, Sean Sweeney, Michael Szymanski, Neera Tanden, Lee Telega, Gabrielle Tenzer, Megan Thompson.

Carrie Torres, Tam Tran-Viet, Leo Trasande, Lacey Tucker, Dan Utech, Lona Valmoro, James Vigil, Lorraine Voles, Kristen Walsh, Greg Walton, Enid Weishaus, Nicole Wilett, Joshua Williams, Jeanne Wilson, Erica Woodard, Yajaira Yezpe, Maryana Zubok.

EXHIBIT 2

SENATOR CLINTON: CHAMPION FOR NEW YORK

For eight years in the United States Senate, Hillary Rodham Clinton has been a champion for the people of New York, achieving results often in the face of tough challenges and tougher odds. That has been the hallmark of her tenure: Senator Clinton has fought to solve problems, working with Democrats and Republicans, forging new state and local partnerships, proposing creative and common-sense legislative solutions, and drawing national attention to challenges and opportunities in New York State.

Senator Clinton has fought for New York when New York has needed a fighter most. These past eight years, New Yorkers have

faced challenges among the toughest in our state's history and tragedy among the most devastating in our nation's history.

From the time of her election in 2000, and following her landslide reelection in 2006, Senator Clinton continued the work she's pursued for more than 35 years in public service as an advocate for children and families, a champion for women's rights and human rights, a leader on health care, and a voice on behalf of all those who have felt invisible.

Standing up for New York after 9/11
Creating Economic Opportunity
Meeting Our Responsibility to Service-members and Veterans
Driving Change in Health Care
Standing Up for Women's Health
Advocating for Children and Families
Leading the Way to a New Energy Future
Addressing Infrastructure Challenges

STANDING UP FOR NEW YORK AFTER 9/11

In the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001, Senator Clinton worked tirelessly on behalf of the victims and their families and New Yorkers who needed a strong voice in Washington.

Just three days after the attacks, Senator Clinton and Senator Charles Schumer went to the Oval Office and secured a commitment from President Bush for \$20 billion in federal aid for New York's recovery. In the years that followed, they fought successfully to make sure that all of the funding promised to New York was delivered.

Senator Clinton's first visit to Ground Zero was on September 12, 2001, and she quickly recognized that there would be lasting health problems for first responders and others who rushed to provide assistance after the World Trade Center attacks as well as for workers, residents, students and others exposed to the toxic cloud of debris and chemicals around Ground Zero. She fought for the establishment of, and secured \$335 million in funding for, programs to provide health screening, monitoring and treatment for first responders, building and construction trades workers, volunteers, residents, office workers, and students suffering health effects and stood up again and again to stop the Bush Administration's efforts to slash funding for this critical care.

The attacks of September 11 also underscored serious gaps in our homeland security, and Senator Clinton worked with the families who were tragically affected by 9/11 to demand the creation of the 9/11 Commission and then to implement its findings, including making sure our first responders have the resources and support they need to meet our crucial homeland security demands and pressing for threat-based homeland security funding.

CREATING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Senator Clinton worked across the aisle to address the economic downturn facing New York and harness the state's talent and resources. To help struggling New York workers, she successfully extended unemployment insurance. She was a driving force behind raising the minimum wage and helped secure in law the first increase in a decade.

Senator Clinton co-authored a law that expanded Renewal Zones with incentives for job creation across Upstate New York. And when efforts to push additional legislative change hit roadblocks in the Republican-controlled Congress, Senator Clinton rolled up her sleeves and developed creative strategies to stimulate economic development, expand markets for New York businesses and producers and create jobs.

In the Finger Lakes and the North Country, she partnered with eBay, local universities and local companies to organize public-private trading cooperatives which pro-

vide small businesses with technological support, microloans, and training programs to sell goods online and improve their sales.

Senator Clinton saw that New York City's restaurants were buying produce out of state at the same time that upstate farmers and producers were struggling, so she launched Farm-to-Fork, an initiative that has helped New York farmers and producers sell their products to New York's restaurants, schools, colleges and universities.

She brought Artspace to Buffalo, creating a thriving model for urban revitalization and economic development centered on cultural projects, and secured funds to renovate downtown cultural centers like Proctors Theater in Schenectady, the Stanley Theater in Utica and the Strand Theater in Plattsburgh.

She helped secure the funds needed to expand broadband access to rural and underserved areas in the North Country and championed an agenda that would create new investments in broadband infrastructure throughout the State.

Senator Clinton also saw the need to better showcase Upstate innovation to potential investors. She helped launch New Jobs for New York, a non-profit organization that brought together more than 2,600 entrepreneurs, investors and researchers across New York and shined a spotlight on over 200 companies across New York, helping them to obtain the investment capital, strategic partnerships and joint ventures they need to grow their businesses and create jobs.

She has also intervened to prevent jobs from leaving New York and was instrumental in several large employers maintaining their presence and their workforce in the state.

Senator Clinton advocated for New York businesses and research institutions, securing more than \$837 million in funding for cutting edge defense projects throughout the state and millions more for alternative energy, nanotechnology and other innovation. She championed creating a business environment that encourages investments in research and development and has been instrumental in the renewal of the R&D tax credit that supports thousands of high skill jobs in New York.

MEETING OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SERVICEMEMBERS AND VETERANS

As New York's first Senator to serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee and as the only member of the Senate to serve on the U.S. Joint Forces Command's Transformation Advisory Group, Senator Clinton served as a leading advocate for our men and women in uniform, military families, and veterans.

When the Bush Administration targeted several New York military bases for closure, Senator Clinton fought back, working with base communities to prevent all of the proposed closures. Together, they ensured that Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, Rome Laboratories and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Rome remained open and that the C-130 mission remained at Stratton Air National Guard Base. Her efforts actually turned a potential loss of thousands of jobs into a gain of hundreds of new jobs and helped to preserve and strengthen New York's vital role in our national security.

Senator Clinton was one of the first to recognize and address troubling gaps in health care and health monitoring for our servicemembers. Continuing work she began as First Lady, she secured in law health tracking for all servicemembers after it was revealed that there was no baseline health history to evaluate them, ensuring that all active duty personnel and reservists receive regular health screenings.

Senator Clinton worked across the aisle to secure in law access to TRICARE military health care benefits for all drilling members of the guard and reserve.

Senator Clinton also secured in law the first ever expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act to enable military family members to take up to six months of leave to care for their injured loved ones, often suffering from serious injuries affecting their bodies and minds that require care from family who work full time.

Senator Clinton fought to make sure our government lives up to its responsibility to our veterans after they leave service. She successfully changed the law to streamline the VA disability benefits claim system to cut red tape and help wounded servicemembers receive the benefits they have earned. She also secured in law assistance for family members caring for loved ones suffering from traumatic brain injury (TBI), the signature wound of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and established a Department of Defense Task Force to assess the mental health challenges facing wounded warriors, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). She also fought and succeeded in stopping the VA's plan to close the Canandaigua VA hospital.

DRIVING CHANGE IN HEALTH CARE

Senator Clinton distinguished herself in the Senate as a leading advocate for fixing our broken health care system and ensuring that all Americans have access to quality, affordable health care.

She worked with members on both sides of the aisle and with health providers across New York to press for needed change to improve quality, reduce costs and expand access.

Senator Clinton saw that all too often family caregivers are the ones who struggle, largely unnoticed and unaided by our health care system, to provide care to chronically ill loved ones with Alzheimer's and other debilitating conditions. She became their champion, authoring and successfully passing a groundbreaking law to expand access to desperately needed respite care.

She pushed to bring the delivery of health care into the 21st century, pressing for Congress to enact national standards for incorporating information technology into the practice of medicine to reduce medical errors, improve quality and reduce costs.

She was a driving force in efforts to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program, an initiative she helped launch as First Lady and which has provided access to health care for thousands of children who otherwise would be uninsured, including nearly 400,000 children in New York.

She used her unique public platform to spotlight the upside down incentives in our health care system, calling for an emphasis on wellness and prevention of chronic diseases that are driving up health care costs. And she was vigilant against Bush Administration efforts to roll back health care for New York's most vulnerable, stopping a short-sighted attempt to cut community health clinics that are the primary source of health care for many low-income New Yorkers and brokering a compromise that prevented the loss of tens of millions of dollars in Ryan White CARE Act HIV/AIDS funding for New York.

STANDING UP FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH

Senator Clinton served as a steadfast defender of women's health and a leading voice against the Bush Administration's efforts to put ideology before science. She successfully pressed the Bush Administration for a decision on Plan B emergency contraception, after more than three years of delay. She spoke out against administration efforts to

restrict access to contraception and family planning and raised the alarm against the administration's last minute plan to undermine women's health by putting in place new rules to allow any employee of a health provider to refuse to participate in any way in health care they find objectionable.

ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Senator Clinton has also continued her life-long advocacy on behalf of children and families.

She saw significant barriers facing grandparents and other family members raising children who would otherwise end up in foster care. So she fought for and secured in law landmark legislation to keep families together and remove obstacles facing grandparents, uncles, aunts, and other family members trying to enroll children in school, sign them up for health care or access other needed services, information and referrals.

Following the tragic death of Cameron Gulbransen of Long Island, Senator Clinton joined with families and safety advocates to pass into law legislation requiring that all new vehicles produced in the United States include safety features to protect children against preventable injuries and death from non-traffic accidents in and around cars. Senator Clinton partnered with former Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelley to secure in law expanded access to newborn screening and increase groundbreaking research at the National Institutes of Health.

And as chair of the Senate Superfund and Environmental Health subcommittee, Senator Clinton held hearings and fought to address environmental health hazards, like child lead poisoning and asthma, that disproportionately affect low-income and minority communities.

When the Bush Administration stopped enforcing the "Pediatric Rule," a Clinton Administration regulation requiring that drugs prescribed to children be tested and labeled for safety and effectiveness specifically in children, Senator Clinton forged a bipartisan coalition to restore the rule and secure it in law. And when President Bush nominated an opponent of basic safety regulations for children's products to head the Consumer Products Safety Commission, Senator Clinton led an alliance of consumer groups and safety advocates to successfully block the nomination.

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

Senator Clinton pushed successfully for more funding for Head Start programs that benefit nearly 50,000 low-income New York families and pushed for the expansion of Early Head Start, bringing national attention to the importance of a comprehensive zero to five early childhood system. She also secured in law legislation to place additional teachers and principals in the schools where they are most needed.

Senator Clinton fought for and succeeded in expanding access to affordable college loans and Pell Grants, including year-round Pell for non-traditional students, so that more students who want to attend college will have that opportunity, regardless of their background or circumstances. Senator Clinton also championed public service, securing the funding needed to maintain AmeriCorps and enable more Americans to serve our communities in exchange for assistance with college costs.

LEADING THE WAY TO A NEW ENERGY FUTURE

From her first days in office, Senator Clinton made it a priority to protect New York's natural resources and develop New York's potential as a leader in alternative energy. She secured in law environmental protection for Long Island Sound and the Great Lakes.

Senator Clinton also helped pass a new law to clean up polluted land known as

brownfields, and worked to bring together developers, environmentalists, and local leaders from across New York to redevelop blighted properties.

Senator Clinton was an early advocate for harnessing alternative energy as an engine of economic growth, working with public and private partners across New York to pioneer new green strategies. She secured in law major federal funding for New York to retrofit trucks, school buses and other heavy vehicles with new clean diesel technologies developed in Corning and cleaner engines manufactured in Jamestown. In Rochester, Senator Clinton worked with local leaders to develop the first in the nation urban "green print," a plan for environmentally sustainable growth and alternative energy development. She also secured passage of laws to create "green jobs" training programs, and to push the federal government to install green building technologies.

ADDRESSING INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES

As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Clinton in 2005 helped craft major transportation legislation reauthorized every five years that sets the nation's investment in our highways and mass transit. In her role as a key negotiator, Senator Clinton secured over \$16.5 billion in transportation funding for New York, a substantial increase of approximately \$3 billion over the previous bill. She also succeeded in including in the law new pollution controls for construction equipment and creation of a commission to chart the nation's transportation future.

In the wake of the tragic Minnesota bridge collapse in 2007, which dramatically underscored the urgency of our infrastructure needs, Senator Clinton helped secure in law legislation to address the deteriorating condition of our nation's roads, bridges, drinking water systems, dams and other public works. She also successfully pressed for increased funding for Amtrak and high speed rail and to reduce flight delays and ease congestion in New York's crowded airspace.

For nearly four decades, Hillary Rodham Clinton has dedicated herself to public service, as an attorney twice voted one of the most influential in America, a First Lady of Arkansas who helped transform the state's health care and education systems, a First Lady of the United States who fought for families at home and women's rights around the world, a renowned expert and advocate for quality affordable health care for all Americans, and as a twice-elected United States Senator who was a tireless champion for the people of New York and a voice for the voiceless everywhere. This document is a snapshot of Senator Clinton's efforts and accomplishments for New York in the Senate, but she has also worked across the Empire State to help communities tackle local challenges and capitalize on their unique opportunities.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I thank the Chair for the opportunity to speak today about the wonderful record of our esteemed colleague, Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON.

For 8 years, Senator CLINTON and I have served jointly as New York Senators, and I have seen, better than anyone, her unwavering commitment to her constituents and her country. Through all this time, HILLARY has demonstrated the equanimity, the prudence, and the fortitude that have made her an exceptional leader and a great public servant.

HILLARY's career has been defined by her unflagging desire to improve the lives of the least fortunate among us. Even before finishing school, she was working to protect children at the Children's Defense Fund and the Carnegie Defense Fund on Children. Turning down a promising career in Washington, HILLARY moved to Arkansas and directed the legal aid clinic at the University of Arkansas Law School.

During her tenure as First Lady, HILLARY made it her priority to fight for justice around the world, advocating for women's rights and democracy worldwide. She made huge gains in protecting women and families. She helped create the Office of Violence Against Women at the Justice Department and was instrumental in the passage of the Foster Care Independence Act and the Adoption and Safe Families Act.

After serving her country 8 years as First Lady, when most people would retire, HILLARY stepped up and has served as a vital and powerful advocate on behalf of the people of New York. Going from the White House to White Plains, HILLARY has continued to show as much acumen in her dealings with national and global leaders as she shows empathy and interest in the needs of private individuals around New York.

We are the only Federal position where two people serve the exact same job, so you get to know your colleague almost better than anyone else. I have seen firsthand HILLARY's dedication and tenacity. Let me tell you all, tell the people of New York, HILLARY looks great from far away, but the closer you get, the better she looks.

I just want to say this, HILLARY: It is a day, as you said so well, of looking back wistfully but to the future with anticipation. That is how I feel. I look back wistfully at the many experiences we shared, working together, getting to know one another, and learning to work and respect and love one another. It has been an amazing part of my experience. I am so thankful for the 8 years we worked together for the people of New York and America. I know our friendship, as we have said to one another, will continue no matter what corner of the globe you are in. And maybe I will try to get some international presence on those Sunday press conferences so you can see them over there. They are mainly aimed at local New York stuff.

Let me just say, as HILLARY said, we traveled the State together. We taught each other about agriculture and worked side by side on those horrible days after 9/11. We have worked for the benefit of aging nuclear weapons and helping the onion farmers in the Hudson Valley. What a great experience it has been.

Of course, as my colleagues know, for all the time she focused and spent on the people of New York—and it was an enormous and successful effort—she also at the same time has been one of our most active and engaged colleagues

in the Senate, working on issues of national policy and international importance, from national security to early childhood education. In all of her many roles as a public servant, HILLARY has always shown the insight to see the heart of a problem. She has had the courage to tackle it and the talent to solve it. That is the trademark of HILLARY CLINTON—insight, courage, talent, all applied for the betterment of the people of New York, the people of America, and now the people of the world. No matter how abstract the problem, no matter how esoteric the question, HILLARY has never once forgotten the people whose lives and happiness depend on her work.

So HILLARY, yes, it is a bittersweet day, but I am so joyful about the excitement—it is palpable—that you exude going on to this new challenge. I am also—and I know every one of the people of New York is as well—grateful for the wonderful job you have done serving them and us. It has been a great ride. I am so grateful, again, for the opportunity to work alongside of you.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I join with the Senator from New York, Mr. SCHUMER, in giving a tribute to our dear friend, Senator HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON. How special it is today that, as she gave her farewell speech, we are literally within minutes on the brink of a vote to proceed to the Lilly Ledbetter bill. Senator CLINTON has been a champion for women, a champion for the opportunity of women, and was the lead on introducing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. How terrific it is that as she gives her last speech on the Senate floor, we will be voting on something for which she has been a champion.

She has been a champion for women both here and around the country, for their economic security, their health security, and also for women around the world, both in her work as First Lady and here in the Senate, whether it was to make sure to work with our current administration to have access to education for Afghan girls, but also as First Lady with the women of the world to make sure, through her project, Vital Voices, women had those voices.

She has been a champion all of her career. Whether it was at the Legal Defense Fund, as First Lady, or now as a Senator of the United States, she has always made sure she has stood up for those who had no voice, and she has used her voice to speak for them. That is what we know she will continue to do.

But I think what we also admire about Senator CLINTON is, she is not only at home with world leaders with whom she will certainly work in her new job but with community leaders as well.

She spoke eloquently about her challenge and Senator SCHUMER's challenge

on that despicable and horrible day of 9/11. But I also want to talk just very quickly about September 10 because while we know Senator CLINTON is a woman of great integrity, keen intellect, and is a can-do person, many do not realize the wonderful bipartisanship in which she has tried to engage in this body. So let me tell you as one of the women of the Senate where we were on September 10.

The night before that terrible day, we were at Senator CLINTON's house, affectionately calling her HILLARY. All of the women, on a bipartisan basis, were there because, guess what we were doing, Mr. President. We were throwing Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON a shower. Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON had just adopted a child. We were so enthusiastic, and we, the women of the Senate, do what women do all over America, we threw Senator KAY a shower, and we gathered at HILLARY's house. We had great food, a couple of drinks that made us feel even better. We told stories. We teased KAY. I volunteered to be Aunt BARB, and she knew I had many talents, but baby-sitting would not be one. We had such a wonderful time. But that was not the only time, as she has worked with all of us. But it shows the warmth and the way she goes about that.

We will always cherish where we were that night because it was special because the next day was so stunning. I could give many examples about it, but we know she has been a tenacious advocate for the people of New York, a leader on crucial issues, a respected colleague, and a dear friend. We are going to miss her, but we know as the Secretary of State she will be a new voice of America. And America does need a new voice.

Senator CLINTON, we know you are going to get us back on track. You are going to work with President Obama to restore our national honor, to repair those friendships around the world which we desperately need. And as you have been in so many things, we know you will be unflinching on human rights and unflagging in strengthening America's alliances abroad. We will work together on those issues, and we know you will be a great Secretary of State. You have been a spectacular Senator, and it is because you are just simply a wonderful human being.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I say to my good friend from New York, through the Chair, I believe the new President could not have made a better selection for Secretary of State. Senator CLINTON has had a unique career in the Senate, actually having only been here 8 years, but nevertheless a candidate for President of the United States who came very close. She had fabulous public service before that as First Lady for 8 years. She has clearly made a difference throughout her life,

and I expect she will do the same again.

I told her on the floor privately, I am particularly enthusiastic about her selection as Secretary of State because I think she will be the first Secretary of State in the history of the United States who has actually been to Hazard and Pikeville, KY. That should give her an extra edge in this new responsibility which she is about to assume.

I say to the Senator from New York, we will be anxious to work with her on some of the issues for which we shared a passion during her years as Secretary of State. I know she will do an outstanding job. She has been a credit to the Senate and will be one of the Nation's outstanding Secretaries of State.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, as I think about Senator CLINTON's leaving the Senate to become Secretary of State, I am reminded of the words of the great English bard William Shakespeare, who wrote that "parting is such sweet sorrow."

Senator CLINTON's departure from this chamber is a time for joy as well as sorrow. HILLARY CLINTON has been an effective, hard-working Senator.

When Senator CLINTON first came to the Senate in 2001, she asked my advice. Although Mrs. CLINTON had been an accomplished and graceful First Lady, she told me that she wanted to excel at working for the State of New York.

I advised her to be a work horse about her new role as a Senator and a work horse she has been, and the people of her State have benefitted.

Following the terrorists attacks of September 11, 2001, she and I worked with Senator SCHUMER to secure financial aid for New York City to help the city to recover from that terrible tragedy. For that, she has since referred to me as the "third Senator from New York," and I am very proud of that designation.

Senator CLINTON and I have worked together on legislation for the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq, served on the Budget Committee together, and worked on several important appropriations issues.

Senator CLINTON has been an active and aggressive Senator, always mindful of the traditions of this great Chamber. She has won the respect and admiration of everyone.

In her 2008 Presidential bid, HILLARY CLINTON broke down barriers for women all across this country, and inspired many of them to pursue their own hopes and dreams of a future in politics.

I will miss Senator CLINTON. This Chamber has been graced by her eloquence, intelligence, and her natural leadership.

Mrs. Clinton's 8 years as our country's First Lady, and her 8 years in the U.S. Senate, where she served on five different Senate committees, including the Senate Armed Services Committee, certainly qualify her for the high honor of being Secretary of State. She will

shine in that office because of her sound judgement, keen intellect, sharp wit, infectious charm, and powerful commitment to making this world a better place.

I congratulate Senator CLINTON on her new position and wish her the best of luck and success. These are troubled times and she will have a most difficult job in the years ahead. Speaking at her graduation at Wellesley College, HILLARY CLINTON declared that, “the challenge now is to practice politics as the art of making what appears to be impossible, possible.”

I say go to it Secretary of State-designate CLINTON. If anyone can make “what appears to be impossible, possible,” Secretary of State HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON can and will.

Mr. REID. Mr. President. I have known HILLARY CLINTON for many years, but for the past 8 years I have had the pleasure of working with her as a colleague in the U.S. Senate.

People on all points of the political spectrum agree that Senator CLINTON is one of the brightest, most highly accomplished U.S. Senators.

Born in the hometown of our President-elect—Chicago—HILLARY CLINTON graduated from Wellesley College, where she was the first student in the school’s history to deliver her own commencement address—not a Governor, a U.S. Senator, dean, or the university president.

She then attended Yale Law School, where she met her future husband and our future President, Bill Clinton.

After law school, she worked for the Children’s Defense Fund and served as a member of the Watergate inquiry staff in the House of Representatives.

When the Clintons moved to Arkansas, HILLARY became a successful attorney in private practice and served as the State’s First Lady.

We all know that she was a remarkable First Lady, leading the way on health care reform, helping create the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, as well as the Violence Against Women Act.

We also know that she was not just a leader for domestic policy, but also became an admired and effective diplomat throughout the world, especially in her call for human rights.

When Senator CLINTON came to the Senate 8 years ago, some expected her to have trouble fitting in. Those concerns quickly disappeared—she was a natural. She has proven in her time here to be exceptionally adept at the give-and-take of the legislative process.

As a result, in just 8 years, she has left an indelible mark, especially through her seats on the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Special Committee on Aging and the Armed Services Committee.

As with Senator BIDEN, the departure of Senator CLINTON is bittersweet. She brought a wealth of knowledge, skill

and wisdom here, and she will be sorely missed.

But after the last 8 years—with so much work ahead to repair our country’s once-lofty stature in the world, I can think of no one better suited for the challenges ahead than the Senator from New York, HILLARY CLINTON, our next Secretary of State.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

LILLY LEDBETTER ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I, too, would like to congratulate Senator CLINTON on her nomination to be Secretary of State; and, alas, there is other work left to do in the Senate, as the Senator from Maryland alluded to, the Lilly Ledbetter Act, for which we will be voting on cloture in a minute. So I have a few words I would like to add specifically on that topic.

We will be voting for the so-called Lilly Ledbetter Act, and I think it is important to reflect a little bit on what that bill would actually do because, honestly, I think it has been characterized as a bill that will protect women’s rights, which as a father of two daughters I am all in favor of not just cracking the glass ceiling but breaking it altogether.

But, actually, this bill, has a much broader impact and perhaps unintended by those who believe it is only about protecting women’s rights. Indeed, what the Lilly Ledbetter Act would do is eliminate the statute of limitations. That sounds like an arcane topic for lawyers that only lawyers could love, but basically what it would do in the case of Ms. Ledbetter—who had waited almost two decades before she raised her discrimination claim, long after the principal witness who could have testified in opposition to that claim had died—indeed, the purpose of the statute of limitations, as the lawyers in this body well know, is to be fair both to the plaintiff who brings the claim and to the defendant who has to defend against that claim, to make sure the documents and the memories and, indeed, the very existence of those who might be able to give testimony can be preserved so the jury can make a good decision. But, indeed, if you wait 20 years before you assert your rights, and after the principal witness who could testify in opposition to your claim has died, that is not exactly fair either.

So, Senator HUTCHISON, my distinguished senior Senator from Texas, will have an alternative which I hope will be offered. I expect it will be offered as an alternative and substitute, which I believe is fair to both those who bring a claim of discrimination and those who have to defend against it.

Indeed, I mentioned a moment ago I am the father of two daughters, now 27 and 26. Many small businesses that are created in America today are headed up by women. Indeed, we need to make

sure those small businesses have some certainty, have some rules they can rely on in terms of knowing when they are likely going to be sued.

I think the Ledbetter Act could more appropriately be called a trial lawyer bailout because, of course, it is premised on the idea that one can slumber on their rights and never have to assert them and, indeed, fight an uneven fight because those who have to defend against them can no longer defend against them because the witnesses are no longer available.

Indeed, at a time when this country is in a recession, I think it is appropriate to point out that no country has ever sued its way out of a recession. Yet the bill that comes to the floor on which we are called upon to vote—the very second bill that is presented to this Senate in the midst of this economic crisis—is one that would effectively, as I said, eliminate the statute of limitations in employment litigation so trial lawyers can bring multi-million-dollar lawsuits over decades-old workplace disputes.

There are many good policy reasons, as I mentioned, why it is important to have those statutes of limitations, but it is particularly true in employment cases where a person’s subjective intent can be the decisive issue that the factfinder has to decide, where memories of the past can be colored by decades of subsequent workplace experience.

Another important policy behind the statute of limitations is called repose. That is a fancy word that represents the idea that people should be allowed to move on with their lives without the constant fear of being sued for something that happened 20 years previously.

Again, during times of economic uncertainty, the Ledbetter bill would create not more certainty but more uncertainty. As I suggested earlier, small businesses would suddenly be exposed to new liability for acts that may have occurred years or decades ago, even if those acts occurred under a previous ownership before the current management was even in place.

There will be no way for small businesses and large businesses alike to quantify this risk because there is no way to know which of the employees may have had a secret grievance they have been harboring for many years just waiting for the opportunity to present the claim at a time when it cannot be adequately defended.

Worst yet, this bill would actually encourage plaintiffs and their lawyers to strategically lie in wait, delaying their employment lawsuits for years while damages accumulate.

Now, this does not help anybody except for perhaps the lawyers and the clients who can take advantage of this one-sided equation. Why sue promptly and limit your damages to a few months of back wages when you can wait 5 years and sue for 5 years of back wages? This can be especially rewarding to a plaintiff who strategically sues