

and decisively if the CICIG is to continue as a meaningful body. I urge U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon to appoint a new CICIG Commissioner with demonstrated expertise in investigating and prosecuting organized criminal networks so the advances of the CICIG continue under new leadership. Equally important is the integrity and continuity of CICIG's professional staff.

In Guatemala, the government needs to address the problems that so frustrated Director Castresana. Fortunately, Guatemala's Constitutional Court annulled the selection of the attorney general, who subsequently resigned. This is a positive step, but it needs to be followed up. Guatemala's next attorney general should have a strong commitment to working closely with and supporting the efforts of the CICIG, as well as reform of the National Police, the establishment of a high impact court for cases of organized crime with heightened security for judges, witnesses and prosecutors, a maximum security jail, and other initiatives by the Guatemalan Legislature that would facilitate the investigation and prosecution of organized crime.

It is not just the attorney general, however. Implementation of many of the CICIG's recommendations has been repeatedly delayed. The entire Guatemalan Government—the executive, legislature and the courts—must act decisively to demonstrate that it can implement urgent anti-impunity reforms, strengthen and professionalize its law enforcement and judicial institutions, and prove that it can be a partner in the fight against organized crime. Reforming the National Police, which is widely perceived as corrupt, ineffective and unaccountable, and whose officers are under-paid, under-trained, and under-equipped, is a critical priority. I hope there is convincing progress in these areas soon.

The United States is providing assistance to bolster Guatemala's institutions, particularly through our Central America Regional Security Initiative. But as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations, I would find it difficult to justify investing further resources in Guatemala's judicial system unless its own government demonstrates a strong commitment to ending impunity and combating organized criminal networks and corruption, which must be rooted out from their entrenched positions within Guatemala's state institutions.

I urge the Guatemalan Government to show, at this critical moment, its firm commitment to the CICIG and to taking the steps necessary to end impunity and strengthen the rule of law so the United States can continue to partner with Guatemala to tackle its many challenges.

EXTENDING FAMILY LEAVE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Obama administration took an-

other step toward ensuring equal treatment for all Americans by extending family leave to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender—LGBT—employees. Earlier this year, I praised President Obama for directing the Department of Health and Human Services to issue regulations ensuring hospital visitation rights for same-sex couples. Now these same couples will be treated fairly when their children are sick, injured, or in need of care. Both of these measures promote the value of strong families and enduring relationships.

There is a tragic history of discrimination in the workplace, but fortunately, we are making progress to end it. In 1993, Congress passed the Family Medical Leave Act, FMLA, allowing employees to take reasonable unpaid leave for certain family and medical reasons. The FMLA sought to promote equal employment opportunities for men and women. Unfortunately, the benefits of that law were not extended to LGBT families. Under the Department of Labor's new interpretation of "son or daughter" under the FMLA, a gay or lesbian employee may now take family and medical leave to care for a newly born, newly adopted, or sick child of the employee's same-sex partner, even if the employee does not have a biological or legal relationship with the child.

The fight for equal rights protections continues in Congress. I am a proud co-sponsor of the bipartisan Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 2009, which would provide domestic partners of Federal employees all of the protections and benefits afforded to spouses of Federal employees, including participation in applicable retirement programs, compensation for work injuries, and health insurance benefits. I also support the Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act of 2009, which would end the taxation of health benefits provided to domestic partners in workplaces that provide domestic partner health benefits to their employees.

Respecting the rights of all hard-working Americans to care for their children in times of crisis is something every American should support.

RECOGNIZING THE LOS ANGELES LAKERS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 National Basketball Association champions, the Los Angeles Lakers. In winning their 16th championship, and the 5th of this decade, the Lakers cemented their status as one of the most successful and storied franchises in the history of professional sports.

Led by a dedicated management and coaching staff and with contributions from an outstanding roster of perennial all-stars, reliable veterans and exciting young players, the Lakers began their successful defense of their 2008–2009 championship by compiling the best

regular season record in the Western Conference.

During the playoffs, the Lakers stood tall against challengers to their title as they defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder, the Utah Jazz, and the Phoenix Suns en route to winning the Western Conference title.

In the NBA finals, the Lakers triumphed against their archrivals, the Boston Celtics, in a fiercely contested seven-game series that gripped basketball fans from coast to coast and the world over. True to their reputation as a team of great resolve and determination, the Lakers overcame a deficit in the last quarter of the deciding game in order to ensure that the NBA championship trophy will reside in Los Angeles for at least another year.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the members of the Lakers organization who worked tirelessly to bring the championship to Los Angeles and Southern California.

As the Los Angeles Lakers and their fans celebrate the 2009–2010 championship campaign, I congratulate them on another remarkable and memorable season and wish them continued success in future seasons.

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS ATHLETES AND COACHES

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize University of Arkansas athletes and coaches who are leading an effort to challenge northwest Arkansas volunteers to pack 2 million meals in 24 hours for people affected by the earthquake in Haiti. They are attempting to break the one-day record for the most food packed, which was set in Kansas City earlier this year.

Under the leadership of Jeff Long, athletic director of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, athletes and volunteers will meet at the Randal Tyson Track Center on the University campus June 25 and 26 to work 2-hour shifts filling and sealing packets of soy power, rice, dried vegetables, and vitamins. The packets will reach Haitians 5 to 7 days later after being transported by ground and sea transportation.

Called Razorback Relief Operation Haiti, the effort is also led by former Razorback golfer Rich Morris and sophomore track athlete Terry Prentice, a member of the student athlete advisory committee.

I commend the entire northwest Arkansas community for pulling together to help their global neighbors in need. These athletes and volunteers represent the best of Arkansas, and I am proud of their efforts.

SECRET HOLDS

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, the Senate Rules Committee held another important hearing today to review yet another example of how the Senate rules are abused. I want to thank Chairman SCHUMER again for holding these hearings—they have been