

shown that women who participate in exercise programs like Bone Builders can gain bone density while nonparticipants will continue to lose bone density.

One particular story shared with me captures how important this program is to help keep Vermonters healthy. A few years ago during a particularly rough winter, a Bone Builders participant was walking to her bird feeder and fell, injuring herself. Yards away from her house and her phone, she found the strength to drag herself back to her house. Later she told an RSVP volunteer that she would not have been able to get inside to call for help if she had not participated in Bone Builders.

Medical experts estimate that there are 1.5 million fractures per year in the United States due to osteoporosis, costing nearly \$20 million in health care services and treatments. Doctors in Vermont, understanding how important strength training programs are for seniors in order to prevent osteoporosis, have started to refer patients to local classes and hand out Bone Builders brochures. Since the program has been so successful and popular in Vermont, there are now more than 100 classes offered across our State.

The program has helped countless Vermonters not only improve their health but make connections in their communities. Some participants have recently lost spouses or have had health difficulties that may isolate them within their neighborhood and communities. The camaraderie and friendship that participants in Bone Builders find through classes often leads them to socialize outside of the program. In fact, the program has been so successful in Vermont that the Bone Builders model has been replicated in several other States, including California, Maine, Florida and Minnesota.

I am proud of the Vermonters who have taken the initiative and challenged themselves in these classes, and for the work of the volunteers who spend their time inspiring others to improve their health. I look forward to celebrating the work of RSVP Bone Builders and many other such anniversaries in the years ahead.

COMMENDING SENATOR ROLAND BURRIS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Senator Roland Burris of Illinois was sworn into office less than 2 years ago. In that short time, he has debated and voted on some of the most important legislation the Senate has considered in 40 years. During his tenure, Senator BURRIS has helped pass major reforms to end abuses by the credit card industry, to put a cop back on the beat on Wall Street, and to expand health care coverage to 32 million Americans while reducing the Federal deficit by \$143 billion. Senator BURRIS also voted to confirm the nomination of two U.S. Supreme Court Justices: Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan.

Senator BURRIS serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee, which I chair. During his service on the committee, Senator BURRIS helped provide oversight of the military as we draw down U.S. forces in Iraq and standup Afghan forces in Afghanistan. He has helped pass weapons acquisition reform legislation and two National Defense Authorization Acts out of committee. He has helped confirm the nominations of Nation's top civilian and military leaders.

Before coming to the Senate, Roland Burris had a distinguished career in Illinois politics, as Illinois comptroller and then as the Illinois attorney general.

As Senator BURRIS ends his time here in the Senate, I thank him for his service to our Nation and wish him and his family the very best.

COMMENDING SENATOR CARTE GOODWIN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I rise to congratulate Senator CARTE P. GOODWIN of West Virginia for his service. When he was sworn into office in July, Senator GOODWIN assumed the seat previously held by the Chamber's longest serving and one of the most distinguished Senators in our history—Senator Robert C. Byrd, who passed away on June 28.

Before arriving in the Senate, Senator GOODWIN already had an impressive political career. As chief counsel to West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin, CARTE GOODWIN led the effort to reform mine safety rules in the wake of the Sago and Aracoma coal mine disasters that killed 14 coal miners. He also served as the chairman of the West Virginia School Building Authority.

Senator GOODWIN serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee, which I chair. As a committee member, Senator GOODWIN has helped pass the National Defense Authorization Act out of committee. He has also contributed to hearings overseeing the status of conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As Senator GOODWIN's time in the Senate draws to a close, I thank him for his service to our country, and I wish him and his family the very best.

WORLD STEM CELL SUMMIT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, next week, scientists, researchers, industry leaders and advocates from around the world will gather in Detroit, MI, for the sixth annual World Stem Cell Summit. By bringing together experts in medicine, genetics, business, and economic development, the summit will give a boost to global efforts aimed at finding cures for debilitating and deadly diseases, as well as bringing the important economic benefits of bioscience. By choosing Detroit as the site of this year's summit, the organizers have made a powerful statement about Michigan's commitment to this vital area of scientific exploration.

In 2008, Michigan voters approved a referendum protecting the ability of Michigan researchers to engage in research involving stem cells. This wise decision has already paid significant dividends. Researchers at the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, and other Michigan institutions have made significant progress even in that short time. UM has established a consortium to aid the search for treatments and cures, and a UM researcher, Dr. Eva Feldman, last year obtained FDA approval for the first ever clinical trials on a stem cell therapy for ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. Researchers at MSU are advancing work on stem cell treatments for Parkinson's disease. At Wayne State, scientists are examining how stem cells can be made more useful for a wide variety of medical purposes. These and other institutions across the State are working hard to save and improve lives, and I congratulate them for their efforts.

Michigan researchers will join others from across the country and around the world at next week's summit. They will examine not only the latest scientific advances but important subjects such as how stem cell research can contribute to economic development efforts, another area in which Michigan has quickly become a leader.

I would like to welcome those who will travel to Detroit next week and thank them for the opportunity to show what Michigan has accomplished in the stem cell field. I wish them every success as they seek to protect the health and save the lives of the millions of people coping with diseases that stem cell research might one day cure.

COMBATTING TERRORISTS' ACCESS TO FIREARMS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in May 2010, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee held a hearing on how known or suspected terrorists are taking advantage of lax Federal laws to purchase firearms. The committee discussed two legislative proposals, both of which I have cosponsored, to address this weakness in current law: the Denying Firearms and Explosives to Dangerous Terrorists Act, S. 1317, and the PROTECT Act, S. 2820. S. 1317 would close the loophole in current law—known as the terror gap—that prevents the Federal Government from stopping the sale of firearms or explosives to a known or suspected terrorist—unless that individual falls under another disqualifying category. S.2820 would lengthen the time—from the current duration of 90 days to 10-years the FBI is required to keep gun transfer records that involve a purchaser on the terrorist watch list. Unfortunately, despite broad support from the law enforcement community, Congress has failed to pass these commonsense pieces of legislation.