I have long been impressed with USIP’s work in Sudan, where the Institute’s training in electoral violence prevention contributed to the relatively peaceful referendum and the low levels of violence in its aftermath. USIP is now actively assisting in the development of a new constitution for Southern Sudan through its Rule of Law Program. Recognizing the volatility of the north/south border areas and the potential for an outbreak of contagious violence, USIP has instituted a training program in the troubled border states of Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan.

In Pakistan, another area of great concern to me, USIP is developing a network of conflict management facilitators to work at the local level, training Pakistani parliamentarians and women leaders in conflict resolution and developing a curriculum for schools based on principles of gender equality, tolerance, pluralism, and peace.

Under the Senate substitute, USIP’s funding would be reduced by almost 20 percent. But any greater reduction would be a great asset in developing stronger unity of effort between civil and military elements of government. In fact, I hope soon to see U.S. military officers, trainers, and government-industrial and nongovernmental counterparts in USIP’s headquarters at 23rd and Constitution. Their facility is not just an important symbol of our nation’s commitment to peace; it is also home to a wonderful training center that we hope to leverage to increase understanding and unity of effort in today’s complex operations.

We can be proud of what USIP has done in the past, and I look forward to working with the contributions the Institute will make in the future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DAVID H. PETRAEUS, General, United States Army, Commanding.

9/11 HEALTH FUNDING

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, today we rise to engage in a colloquy regarding funding for the 9/11 health program. The 9/11 Commission was a tireless supporter of the 9/11 World Trade Center health program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s, CDC, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, NIOSH. This program has helped our first responders who bravely rushed in on September 11 and thousands of others who were in the area on that terrible day.

The 2011 continuing resolution proposed by Senator INOUYE that the Senate will vote on today makes fiscally prudent adjustments to our Nation’s spending, but I wanted to clarify with the Senator, through this colloquy, that none of the spending reductions in the CR will impact public health care screening and treatment for first responders, survivors, residents, students and others related to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. As the Senator knows, we successfully enacted a bipartisan bill to provide mandatory funding to the Argentine government defaulted on over $81 billion in sovereign debt. Nearly $9 billion of this debt was held by the U.S. government and American citizens. Following its default, Argentina made a long-term offer to American creditors by the Republic of Argentina’s 2010 Club, a group of sovereign governments and financial institutions that includes the United States and represents 19 creditor countries, that it will pay its outstanding sovereign debt, in New York. I am pleased to report that this settlement offers well belowinternational norms for settling sovereign debt defaults.

I am pleased to report that recently Argentina has shown a willingness to negotiate in settling some of this debt. Argentina recently informed the Paris Club that its government defaults that includes the United States and represents 19 creditor countries, that it will pay its outstanding sovereign debt,