

believe the sound recommendations in the 2010 DGA support this. The Collins-Udall of Colorado amendment would achieve this by requiring that all fresh fruits and vegetables, including fresh white potatoes, be included in the final USDA rule.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CODY J. TOWSE

Mr. LEE. Madam President, it is with a heavy heart that I address the Senate today, as I rise to honor a recently fallen soldier. PFC Cody J. Towse, one of Utah's finest, was killed last month when his patrol was hit by an improvised explosive device in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

PFC Towse loved to help others. He served as a combat medic in the Army, and was a certified EMT and a volunteer firefighter prior to enlistment. He put his special skills to use in serving the United States by saving other soldiers. He recently received a Combat Medic award for performing his medical duties while being actively engaged by the enemy.

Before enlisting in the Army, Cody started a blog to chronicle his time in the military, which he hoped would help other prospective recruits. His blog is filled with comical posts, as well as insightful truths and prophetic statements. In his first post, he wrote, "I've never been quite so excited for anything in my life. I've grown tired of living a mediocre life and can't wait to start a journey full of responsibility, honor, and dedication." PFC Towse lived up to that ideal, and left a shining example for the world to follow.

A Utah newspaper wrote that PFC Towse "was known as the 'Candy Doctor'—a name he earned by showering the children with countless handfuls of fruity or chocolate treats." His father, Jim Towse said that Cody "was my boy. He was me. I love old cars, he loves old cars. Seems like everything I love, he loved." Their special relationship was the kind that only a father and his son could have. Jim also said, "It comforts me to know [Cody] went for a noble cause. He told me, 'You know, Dad, if I go out in a blaze of glory, don't worry. If I can save somebody doing it, all the better.'"

In another blog post, written just before leaving for Afghanistan, PFC Towse poignantly wrote of the deeper thoughts and conflicting feelings our soldiers often face:

I feel like we all walk a fine edge, emotionally at least. A man can't sit around and contemplate the impending possibility of his death all day or he'll go crazy. It can be just as bad for a man to sit around and joke like nothing could ever happen to him and breed a lackadaisical outlook on his mission and get himself or his buddies killed.

Now I'm just rambling. I guess in short I just wanted to say that sometimes the biggest obstacle a man faces is himself and his mind. Yeah, that sounded educated, I'll go with that.

Indeed, each of us would do well to remember and apply the truth of which PFC Towse wrote. In order to overcome challenges in our lives, we must first

overcome our own fears and perceived inadequacies. I believe that Cody Towse lived his life according to this truth.

His commander in Afghanistan reported that when the patrol was attacked, PFC Towse began assisting the wounded. As PFC Towse was performing his duties, a second IED was detonated and the resulting injuries took his life. When I heard of Cody's story, I was reminded of Christ's teaching: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." PFC Towse's dutiful actions were unquestionably an ultimate display of love for his brothers in arms.

I imagine that Cody, like many of our service men and women, would deny the claim that he is a hero. To Cody, and all of our soldiers, I would say that you are among the few heroes left in our modern world. As Americans, we all feel a profound sense of pride and honor when we see a uniformed soldier, and we would be wise to remember our heroes in all that we do, especially in this body.

I thank PFC Cody J. Towse for his honorable service in defense of the Constitution and our freedom, and I thank all of our men and women who have also given the ultimate sacrifice. I would like to convey my condolences and profound gratitude to Cody's parents, Jim and Jamie, his brothers Will and Christian, and his sister Callan. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. It is my solemn hope that we, as Senators, will always remember the tremendous sacrifice, laid upon the altar of freedom, of our brave soldiers and their families.

OFFICE OF RURAL EDUCATION POLICY ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I was proud to join Senator BAUCUS from Montana in introducing legislation on Tuesday to establish an Office of Rural Education Policy at the Department of Education. Senator BAUCUS has been a tireless advocate for many issues affecting rural States like Montana and West Virginia, and I have been proud to work with him on several rural issues over the years. Notably, Senator BAUCUS and I are fortunate to have terrific partners in our work to improve rural education, including a diverse array of organizations that support this bill.

Nearly one quarter of the students in America attend rural schools and the share of students in rural schools is increasing and more than half of the schools in West Virginia are in rural areas. This legislation will support these schools because it creates an Office in the Department of Education to make sure that Federal programs related to education are working for students in schools in rural areas.

Schools in rural communities face special challenges but, they also have unique capabilities. Many of them continue to face shrinking local tax bases, difficulties recruiting and retaining teachers and principals, limited access

to advanced courses, and proportionally higher transportation costs. At the same time, while smaller schools lack economies of scale, they may benefit from this small size and closeness to their communities. Parental involvement and support is typically high, and the potential for innovation is great.

I am very proud of the communities in West Virginia and how they come together, often on their own time and with their own resources, to improve and support their local schools. Schools in West Virginia are also leaders in the use of distance learning given the geographical obstacles of our mountainous State. But, we need to make sure rural schools, including many in West Virginia, have the tools to succeed and access to the same opportunities that many schools in urban areas have, including health care, technology, and education.

The Office of Rural Education Policy is modeled after the successful Office of Rural Health Policy at the Department of Health and Human Services, which Congress established in 1987. The Office will be led by a director charged with coordinating the activities of the Department of Education concerning rural education. It will establish and maintain a clearinghouse for issues faced by rural schools, such as teacher and principal recruitment and retention; partnerships with community-based organizations; and financing of rural schools.

The office will identify innovative research and demonstration projects on rural schools, and recommend research to bridge any gaps. It will issue an annual report on the condition of rural education, and an analysis of the impact on rural education from proposed regulations and other activities will be made public.

Rural schools have been a part of our national fabric since its very beginning. These students deserve the attention from the Department of Education this legislation will provide. It has been said that education in rural America is "too large to be ignored but too small and diverse to be highly visible." We need to establish this Office so that education in these communities can thrive and so that its successes are more visible. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF GRISWOLD v. CONNECTICUT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 48th anniversary of the landmark *Griswold v. Connecticut* Supreme Court decision. Nearly 50 years ago, the Court greatly expanded women's access to health care by legalizing the use of contraception by married couples, basing this decision on a fundamental right to privacy in family planning decisions made between a man and a wife.

We have come a long way since 1965. Today, options for birth control are

safer, more effective, and available to far more people than just married couples. The simple facts are that 99 percent of women will use contraceptives over the course of their lifetime, and the vast majority of Americans find the use of contraceptives morally acceptable. This progress shows just how important contraceptive products and services have become to our country.

Preserving this access should be a noncontroversial, bipartisan issue. And yet access to contraceptives and to Federal programs such as title X that support reproductive health care services are under attack not only by the loud voices of a small minority but also by some Members of Congress and in the courts. We have an alarming situation on our hands. Now more than ever, it is important that we continue to fight back against these outrageous attacks and talk about these issues in terms of the proven scientific facts.

As a U.S. Senator, I have remained dedicated to helping protect a woman's right to direct her reproductive health care, a battle that I also fought for years as attorney general in Connecticut. I challenged both the Bush administration and the Obama administration on their policies related to a Federal rule that interfered with State laws protecting access to birth control and reproductive health services.

Having served on both the State and Federal levels, I see how critically important the right to contraception is to our economy, our families, and our society as a whole. Whether the threat comes from a Federal law overstepping States' jurisdiction or from a State law violating constitutional rights—as was the case in *Griswold v. Connecticut*—we must continue to protect the right to safe, comprehensive birth control.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

ALASKA'S CLASSICS

• Mr. BEGICH. Madam President, I would like to honor all the Alaskans, clubs, and other organizations that collect, restore, show off, and otherwise love their classic and antique automobiles.

All over the State, there are clubs dedicated to antique autos, classic cars, muscle cars, street rods, and all kinds of specialty vehicles. I really get a kick out of some of the expressive club names: the Juneau Dipsticks, the Antique Auto Musers of Alaska, and the Valley Cruzers, to name a few.

But it is what they do that is great. Restoring cars and trucks and keeping them in good running order contributes to preserving the history of automotive technology and our culture. And their efforts mean we get to view a wide variety of vintage vehicles at all sorts of venues.

Maybe it is the iconic 1957 Chevy you saw at a local meet that caught your fancy. Perhaps you feasted your eyes on a Ford Model T at a Father's Day

car show. Or you glimpsed an old Jeep amongst a caravan of restored military vehicles. Who hasn't marveled at antique cars in parades? As an elected official, I have ridden in many an old car or truck on the Fourth of July. The beauty of classic car collections is that there is something for everyone.

In Fairbanks, the Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum has a world-class collection including Alaska's first automobile, one-of-a-kind and sole-surviving autos, the first American V16-powered car—and much more.

Also in Fairbanks, students in an automotive technology class at Hutchison High School are restoring a 1963 Chevy truck, and they are doing it for more than just the learning experience. They are honoring a former student who passed away in 2011. He bought two dilapidated pickups to work on but was unable to continue the project.

In Delta Junction, the Buffalo Center Gas Station sponsors an Annual Classic Car Night in support of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Car collecting is so popular in America that the Senate has annually proclaimed a day in July as "Collector Car Appreciation Day" to raise awareness of the role automotive restoration and collection plays in American society.

Whether it is the Vernon Nash Antique Automobile Club, the Midnight Sun Street Rod Association, or the Anchorage Corvette Club, it is typical of members to trade parts, knowledge, and stories. That makes for lifetime friendships.

I encourage Alaskans to join car clubs and take the time to thank collectors and restorers. ●

RECOGNIZING OARNET

• Mr. BROWN. Madam President, Ohio has a robust history of pioneering innovation—as the home of Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers, aerospace leaders including former Senator John Glenn, Neil Armstrong and more. Today, Ohio is transforming from the Rust Belt into the Innovation Belt.

This week, OARnet, a member of Ohio Technology Consortium or OH-TECH, is being honored here in the Nation's Capital for its new ultra-fast broadband network as an honored 2013 laureate by IDG's Computerworld, an international source of technology news and information for informational technology influencers.

This Emerging Technology Award is based on Ohio's innovative efforts to meet the growing economic and research opportunities offered by "Big Data." In 2012, Ohio invested more than \$13 million to increase tenfold the speed and network capacity of OARnet, a statewide broadband network, to 100 gigabits per second, Gbps. Although several research institutions in other States are experimenting with this new gold standard of broadband speeds, Ohio is the first in the Nation to harness this capacity on a statewide scale.

Ohio touts connections to 10 major cities, 90 of Ohio's higher education institutions, commercial applications, and Internet2's international network.

These broadband speeds are expected to create many opportunities for Ohio. At 100 Gbps, each of Ohio's 1.8 million enrolled K-12 students could download an e-book simultaneously in just over 2 minutes; data equivalent to 80 million file cabinets filled with text can be transferred daily; 300,000 X-rays can be transmitted in just 1 minute; 8.5 million electronic medical records can be transmitted in 1 minute; and data can be sent at 50,000 times faster than current average smartphone speeds.

OH-TECH's international recognition is further testament to Ohio's evolution into a high-tech environment that supports next-generation business applications to attract new employers, connects the State's higher education institutions, our cutting edge medical corridor, and serves as a platform for developing large-scale scientific research.

Ohio is also celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Ohio Supercomputer Center with the launch of a new cluster supercomputer. This new supercomputer, which can perform 88 trillion calculations per second, allows researchers statewide to innovate and compete for grants and national supercomputing resources in the areas of the biosciences, advanced materials, energy, and the environment. I am proud to have worked closely with the White House to secure a \$5 million grant to the Ohio Supercomputer Center and several partner organizations to support the advanced manufacturing efforts of Midwestern small- and medium-sized manufacturers, SMEs. I have also helped secure Federal funding to help small polymer companies address the technical barriers, costs, and training needed to use advanced manufacturing technologies. Through partnerships with the government and collaborations with technology leaders like Procter & Gamble, we can work together to help strengthen Ohio's manufacturing sector and provide the tools needed to compete in the global marketplace.

My home State is one of the largest investors and active partners in the National Digital Engineering and Manufacturing Consortium, NDEMC, a broad public-private partnership supporting the use of modeling and simulation by small- and medium-sized manufacturers. This project gives manufacturers the ability to conduct complex simulations to test virtual prototypes and maximize production methods, all through cost-effective means. These platforms reduce manufacturers' time and labor costs and help them bring products to market faster, making them more competitive with our overseas counterparts.

A Cleveland Plain Dealer editorial proclaimed, "Ohio is wired for business. Goodbye Rust Belt, Hello Nerd-