

form. So were many other senators. And this is the result.

Despite well-meaning intentions over the years, our system has become too complicated and burdensome. It wastes time and dollars that ought to be spent helping students.

So today, I am here to ask for your help. I want to reverse this trend of piling on layer after layer.

To begin with, I have asked my staff to consider drafting a new Higher Education Act from scratch. Start all over. Include everything that needs to be included and consider new regulations that need to be written. This is not an ideological exercise. It is an effort to clean out the clutter. Call it a long-delayed spring cleaning.

The Senate education committee has begun to hold hearings on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Chairman HARKIN and I have worked closely together on these hearings and the chairman has been very thoughtful in how we are approaching them.

At a recent financial aid hearing, here is what the witnesses told us and they all told us the same thing:

- o The application for a Pell Grant could be reduced to a post-card by collecting only income and family size

- o The federal aid system should consist of one grant, one loan, and one tax credit

- o Students should know how much the federal government will invest in them in their junior year of high school

- o We can use social media to reach those in middle school about potential aid opportunities

We were told that these four big ideas would:

- o Save money
- o Reduce regulation
- o Increase access for low-income, disadvantaged students

To take these ideas and others and put them into law, I have created a Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education.

I am joined in this by Senator Mikulski, Senator Burr, and Senator Bennet; Brit Kirwan of the University of Maryland System and Nick Zeppos of Vanderbilt University have agreed to co-chair this task force. And 14 other college presidents, university system heads, and other leaders representing all sectors in higher education will work with the American Council on Education to:

- o Identify duplicative or unnecessary regulations

- o Determine the cost of complying with federal regulation

- o And offer suggestions for improving the current structure of regulating.

Other members of NAICU serving on this panel include:

- o Hartwick College (which has done tremendous work in this area already)

- o Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association

- o Colorado Christian University
- o American University
- o Hiram College.

In addition, Congress has provided \$1 million to the National Research Council to conduct a study on overregulation of higher education funding for which I have fought since the last reauthorization of the Higher Education Act in 2008.

So we have a bipartisan group of senators and a task force which has its first meeting next week and a National Research Council \$1 million study to help us do our job.

But we need one more thing: your help.

Ronald Reagan once said that the eight most dangerous words were: "I'm from Washington and I'm here to help."

Well, I'm from Tennessee. So, while I may be here in Washington, I am here instead to ask for YOUR help.

The task force needs to hear specific examples of rules and regulations that are no longer needed, overly burdensome, costly, and confusing.

I would suggest that you do it in the easiest, most specific and practical way. Start with the easiest thing that will make the most difference and save the most money and time that would be better spent on students, and make that first. And the next one, second. In every case, make it as specific as possible. You're the experts. You know what's happening at your institutions.

Send your specific recommendations to this organization (NAICU), my staff, and directly to Chancellor Zeppos.

But I would also like to recommend that you share these with your home state senators and representatives.

Now sometimes I've said that you don't need to come to Washington, and sometimes I get in trouble for saying that, but it's true. In fact, it's better if you see them at home. Think about it. Here they've all flown to Washington, they think the plane flight somehow made them smarter, they're away from their grounding, and they're busy. They have lots to do here.

Now, you all have flown up here and spent a lot of money to get here, and you're doing the right thing—that's a good thing, it's helpful, it's appreciated, it's important.

But let me tell you something that's more important. Take ten people from your congressional district and ask to see your congressman or congresswoman at his or her district office. Or go see your senator in his state office. You'll have more to say, it will cost you a lot less to travel, they'll have more time to hear you, and it will make a much bigger difference.

Visit them at home!

Tell them that you are forwarding a list of duplicative, unnecessary rules and regulations affecting higher education that you have identified for elimination.

Explain to them the importance on institutional autonomy, the accreditation process and the marketplace that produces competition allowing students to choose schools and why this has helped to create the best system of higher education in the world.

They will have questions, and they are entitled to have questions. Last year Congress appropriated \$33 billion in taxpayer dollars for Pell Grants, more than \$100 billion in loans and \$38 billion for university-sponsored research.

We'll need allies to make progress, and if you tell your elected representatives what you are doing and exactly how to deregulate higher education, I bet they will listen.

Let me give you an example of why this is worth your time, the story behind the America COMPETES legislation.

In 2005, I was sitting at a Senate Budget Committee hearing and I was worried about how all the Medicaid and Medicare spending was going to squeeze out investments in education. So, that afternoon, I walked over to the National Academy of Sciences and said, "I believe if you'll tell Congress 10 things in priority order that Congress would need to do in order to help make us more competitive in the world, I believe Congress would do it."

The Academy created a very good group led by Norm Augustine of Lockheed Martin and produced a report called "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." It had 20 specific suggestions in priority order—Congress enacted about 2/3 of them, and within 4 to 5 years, funded most of them.

In other words, the point I'm trying to get across here is that most ideas in Washington fail for lack of the specific idea.

You'll be surprised that the more specific you are, the more likely things are to get done.

Now, I am among the converted.

I believe we have the best system of colleges and universities in the world.

Despite that, you will hear me urging you to focus on worker training, to stop this business of shutting down such valuable assets during the summer, and to confront disturbing political correctness.

In the history of the world, universities have changed less than any other institution. But in the Internet age, they will need to change more. You need to learn from the same lesson that applied to the American automobile companies in the 1960s and 1970s which nearly led to their demise.

So my mission today is to deregulate and simplify the federal role in higher education. To do this, I need your help. First, to suggest concrete examples of overregulation. Second, to remind your elected representatives of the importance of autonomy and the marketplace that has created the best higher education system in the world.

And if all of that effort earns the award for deregulation and simplification of higher education, I will gladly share it with each of you.

RECOGNIZING JEANNE HULIT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jeanne Hult, who is

leaving her position as Acting Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration tomorrow. Ms. Hulit is returning to the private sector after more than 4 years of service to her country at SBA. She stepped up last year when former Administrator Karen Mills stepped down, staying on for longer than anticipated to ensure that the government agency responsible for helping America's nearly 28 million small businesses had the leadership it needed. We should thank her for honoring her commitment to America's entrepreneurs.

Prior to assuming the role of Acting Administrator, Ms. Hulit served as Associate Administrator for SBA's Office of Capital Access since February 2012, where she was responsible for advising SBA Administrator Karen Mills and overseeing the agency's loan programs. During her tenure at SBA, the agency saw its two highest years of small business lending on record.

Ms. Hulit's service at SBA began in 2009 when she was appointed to serve as SBA's New England Regional Administrator. As Regional Administrator, she was responsible for carrying out SBA's core mission of assisting small businesses with the "three C's"—capital, contracting and counseling—in six New England States.

Prior to joining SBA, Ms. Hulit spent 18 years in banking, serving as senior vice president for commercial lending at Citizens Bank, vice president and middle market lender at KeyBank, and manager of KeyBank's International Banking Division. Prior to that, she served as deputy director of the International Division at the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development. Ms. Hulit has also held a number of civic and economic leadership roles, including her tenure as a founder and chair of the Maine International Trade Center and her service as chair for the University of Southern Maine Board of Visitors.

Ms. Hulit's experience in both the public and private sector and her expertise in lending gave her unique insight into the importance of getting capital into the hands of entrepreneurs. This came across clearly in her success at SBA. During her time at SBA, the agency supported more than \$126 billion in lending to more than 260,000 small businesses and entrepreneurs. This includes two record years of delivering more than \$30 billion annually in loans in fiscal year 2011 and fiscal year 2012 and more than \$29 billion in 2013.

Later this month, Ms. Hulit will be moving back home to Maine and taking a job at Northeast Bank. While it is tough to see the SBA lose such a talented and loyal public servant and America's small businesses lose a tireless advocate, I am happy to see her get to return home to pursue this great opportunity. I wish her all the best in this and future endeavors, and I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking her for her loyal and dedicated service at SBA.

HONORING MAINE VETERANS

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the men and women who have defended America with their service and to bring to the attention of my colleagues some of the many outstanding ways in which citizens of Maine are honoring those who served and, in some cases, gave their lives for our country.

U.S. Marine Corps Maj. David Cote, a Maine native, recently established the Summit Project, a living tribute to remember and memorialize each Maine servicemember who has been killed in the line of duty since September 11, 2001.

As part of this living memorial, Major Cote has traveled across Maine to visit with the families of the fallen. He has asked each family to search for a stone to represent their loved one who gave his or her life so we could live in peace. From backyards and fishing holes to national forests and lakeside camps, these stones have been hand-picked from across Maine to represent each fallen hero.

Beginning this Memorial Day and annually thereafter, Major Cote will lead commemorative tribute hikes, in which volunteers will each carry a stone in honor of a specific fallen servicemember. During these hiking expeditions, the memories of the fallen, recounted by widows, mothers, fathers, and friends, will be shared with the hikers embarking on their journey to the summit of mountains in Maine. The Summit Project was launched to help the families who have suffered such painful losses truly heal, and to ensure that the experiences of these heroes inspire a new generation of patriots. It will honor the heroism and patriotism of those who gave all for our country since 9/11 and will ensure that their stories and sacrifices are added to Maine's proud history of duty to country.

In another unique effort, which started 23 years ago in Maine and which has now spread to include the entire United States and beyond, thousands of volunteers each year have the opportunity to recognize the ultimate sacrifice made by our brave servicemembers by participating in Wreaths Across America. This annual effort, which provides holiday wreaths to mark the graves of fallen servicemembers, was begun by Morrill and Karen Worcester of Harrington, ME.

On December 14, 2013, approximately one dozen tractor-trailer trucks laden with 143,000 "remembrance wreaths," all proudly made in Maine, were escorted to Arlington National Cemetery by the Maine State Police and Patriot Guard Riders. Numerous volunteers spent the morning placing the wreaths on the headstones of deceased veterans and reflecting on their courage, selflessness, and sacrifice. All told, Wreaths Across America shipped more than 470,000 wreaths to adorn veterans' graves in all 50 States and around the world.

The mission of Wreaths Across America is to "Remember, Honor, Teach." In addition to honoring America's fallen, the group seeks to promote awareness of the sacrifices made by servicemembers through various veterans' events and wreath laying ceremonies at State Houses and the U.S. Capitol. These solemn ceremonies allow us the opportunity to pause and remember the many men and women who have died to preserve our freedoms, and they encourage us to instruct younger generations so that those sacrifices are never forgotten.

For those veterans who have returned home from war, our Nation must ensure that we facilitate their transition to life as civilians. In many cases, these veterans have suffered severe injuries and need further assistance. The third effort I highlight today focuses on one veteran's effort to encourage other veterans.

U.S. Army SSG Travis Mills was on his third tour of duty in Afghanistan when he was critically injured by an improvised explosive device while on patrol. As a result, Travis lost portions of both legs and both arms. He is one of just five quadruple-amputees from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to survive their injuries.

While Travis recovered at Walter Reed Medical Center, he dreamed of providing a camp in Maine as a recreation center for disabled veterans and their families—an affordable place which would provide much-needed quality time for families to spend together. Through the assistance of Dean Lachance, executive director of the Bread of Life Ministries, Travis was connected with Joel and Crista Lavenson, co-owners of Kennebec Camp's Maine Golf & Tennis Academy. Together, they transformed their vision into a reality, creating the National Veterans Family Center, where wounded veterans and their families can enjoy much needed rest and relaxation while participating in outdoor activities that include fishing, boating, and archery.

We must never forget the sacrifices that have been made by all generations of veterans, as well as those who still serve. I am proud that Maine has a long history of great patriots who have died in the service of their country. Low on ammunition and men, Joshua Chamberlain courageously led the charge at Little Round Top at the Battle of Gettysburg. MSG Gary Gordon demonstrated great bravery during the Battle of Mogadishu in 1992, which led to his receiving the Medal of Honor. The brave Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom are no longer with us, but through efforts like The Summit Project, Wreaths Across America, and the National Veterans Family Center, we can honor their sacrifice and ensure that their legacies live on.