

their entire careers. He helped improve the Family Violence Prevention Program. Justice Freeman also improved the educational program for judges statewide and pushed for the creation of a special committee to study the death penalty and reforms.

While Justice Freeman was a great jurist, his legacy is also reflected in his efforts to promote a diverse judiciary. He appointed 11 of the 16 African Americans who have served on the First District Appellate Court since 1990. It was important to him that people saw in the courtroom judges and lawyers that reflected society. He mentored so many in the field.

During his career, Justice Freeman received many awards for his service, including the Freedom Award from the John Marshall Law School, the Seymour Simon Justice Award from the Jewish Judges Association, the Earl Burrus Dickerson Award from the Chicago Bar Association, and the Ira B. Platt Award and the Presidential Award from the Cook County Bar Association.

Charles Freeman is survived by his son Kevin and daughter-in-law Cami, by two grandchildren, and by his brother James. I want to extend my sympathies to his family and loved ones. The loss of Justice Freeman is a loss for our State and for the whole country.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of Northern Illinois University, or NIU, a renowned institution with a long record as a public research university and the proud home of Huskies.

Like many great State universities across this country, Northern Illinois University began as an expansion of the normal school program, otherwise commonly known as a teachers college. Near the end of the 19th century, as our Nation's population continued to experience rapid growth, the State of Illinois recognized the need to prioritize teacher training in Northern Illinois to increase access to education in the burgeoning community. NIU was founded in DeKalb, IL, in 1895 to help more students receive a high-quality education, and it still serves those same goals today.

NIU is a university of diversity. From its very first day, NIU has charted a course of inclusion and accessibility that focused on the students and their education. NIU has proven its commitment in this area by expanding opportunities and pathways to college for students from underserved communities and to those that are the first in their family to attend college. Over the years, NIU has been at the forefront of recognizing the unique challenges of these communities and has worked tirelessly to identify ways to address them as part of its strong commitment to students.

NIU is a university of opportunity. Today, nearly three quarters of NIU students fall into one or more of the following categories: about 45 percent of the students are Pell grant-eligible, 50 percent are students of color, and 50 percent are first-generation college students. I would like to commend NIU for its work to make higher education more accessible for families from all communities and walks of life.

NIU is a university of excellence. NIU has a nationally recognized faculty that includes prominent experts and leading scholars from a variety of disciplines, including science, East Asian studies, and visual and performance arts. After receiving a first-class education at NIU, over 200,000 alumni have gone on to make a difference in the Midwest and across the world, teaching people about the value of NIU as they do.

The State of Illinois has been enriched by NIU, and I look forward to the school's many contributions in the years ahead. It is my distinct honor to congratulate President Lisa Freeman and the entire NIU community on its 125th anniversary.

SUNSHINE WEEK

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate a statement in support of Sunshine Week, an annual event that spotlights the key need of a government-transparency. Without openness and access to how all levels of government spend tax dollars or make key decisions, accountability and oversight will lack.

Where transparency is lacking, waste, fraud, and duplication tend to proliferate. The Government Accountability Office-GAO-regularly cites "lack of transparency" as a chronic problem across many agencies and programs. This can have serious consequences. This causes increased taxpayer spending and improper payments. This hinders competition. In turn, a lack of transparency can affect everything from public health to our national defense.

Given the profound and far-reaching impacts of Federal programs and policies, the people need to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

Without access to reliable, accurate information, how can we be sure good decisions are being made when it comes to spending the tax dollars of hard-working families? Sure that the policies we craft in this Chamber are working as intended? Sure that our limited resources go where they are needed most? Sure that the programs we create aren't causing harm?

Well that is why, as the chairman of the Budget Committee, I have focused the last several years on enhancing transparency and improving both the quality and quantity of data available for all decisionmakers. I am extremely gratified that my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, along with key organizations and experts, so often join these efforts.

One step in the right direction is the Senate Budget Committee has started to publish regular scorekeeping reports. These are available for the public on the committee's website and track the budgetary impact of legislation approved by Congress against current spending levels. This helps provide other committees, Members of Congress, and taxpayers with ongoing updates about the fiscal implications of recently agreed upon legislation.

In addition, there are obviously many unknowns when it comes to agencies implementing the laws and programs already on the books. To address this concern, I led a bipartisan group of 15 Senators last July, along with Senator LANKFORD, to urge the White House Office of Management and Budget to make a complete list of all Federal programs publicly available in a central, governmentwide website. This would help to identify and eliminate program waste and duplication. Because, believe it or not, there is no comprehensive list of each and every program the Federal Government funds. It still isn't available.

The fact that legislators and taxpayers don't even know how many programs we have or what they do is troubling, particularly as we continue to create and fund new ones.

In the past, GAO has identified massive amounts of duplication across the Federal Government, including more than 12 programs on financial literacy, 160 Federal housing assistance programs or activities, 94 green building initiatives, 253 crime prevention programs, 14 diesel emission reduction programs, 45 early learning and child care programs, and 163 STEM programs.

Most recently, GAO's 2019 annual report on duplication found six different government programs engaged in quantum computing research. Clearly, all of these programs could be improved by some basic coordination or consolidation.

This simple inventory has been on the to-do list for almost a decade. There have been previous attempts, but those have fallen short. We will continue working with GAO and OMB until the list is actually published.

Most importantly, last fall, I joined with Senator WHITEHOUSE to introduce bipartisan budget process reform legislation—the first bipartisan budget reforms approved by the Senate Budget Committee since 1990.

The Bipartisan Congressional Budget Reform Act would increase transparency in the congressional budget process in a number of ways—by having Congress develop a fiscal plan that is easy to understand and offers the public a chance to view if Congress is living within its means, encouraging other committees to review the programs in their jurisdiction that are in most need of review, directing both GAO and the Congressional Budget Office to review program portfolios—portfolios are groups of programs with