

colleague Senator REED, to mark the last day of Father Brian Shanley's tenure at Providence College, where he has served as president for 15 years. Father Shanley is the longest serving president in the history of Providence College and the only native Rhode Islander to have had the role.

A graduate of Providence College himself, Father Shanley has led the Catholic liberal arts college—the country's only higher learning institution run by the Dominican Friars—through a decade and a half of change. He has greatly increased P.C.'s national profile and overseen major capital improvements to the campus, all while ensuring the school remains true to its principles and a good neighbor in the Elmhurst section of Providence. Father Shanley created a College of Business to expand the school's offerings beyond its signature liberal arts curriculum and a Center for Global Education to foster opportunities abroad for students. He has taken strides to increase diversity by investing in financial aid, transitioning to a test-optional admissions model, and recruiting students and faculty from different backgrounds. And, of course, P.C. has cultivated a national reputation for its stellar basketball and hockey programs with Father Shanley at the helm.

I would like to add on a personal note how cordial and gracious Father Shanley has been in all my dealings with him and with Providence College in his tenure. It has been a true pleasure to work and interact with him.

I wish Father Shanley the very best in his well-earned retirement. Go Friars!

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO SAM ROSS

• Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, Sam Ross is a farmer from Pioneer, LA, and is recognized as a top producer of the year finalist, a great honor in the farming community. Ross's family has been farming for years, and after graduating high school, he got into the trade with his first 100 acres. Fast-forward to now, and Sam owns over 10,000 acres of crops. His farm is a fourth-generation family-run operation. I would like to thank Sam and all the other farmers in America for the great work they do.●

VERMONT STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

• Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD some of the finalist essays written by Vermont High School students as part of the 10th annual "State of the Union", essay contest conducted by my office.

The material follows:

HUSSEIN AMURI, WINOOSKI HIGH SCHOOL,
JUNIOR

"Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The

wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Emma Lazarus, a native-born American, included these sentiments in the sonnet "The New Colossus" engraved on the pedestal that supports the Statue of Liberty. The words and the statue embody the greatness and intellect of this country. I am a teenage immigrant from Tanzania, whose family fled the Second Congo Civil War to enter the "golden door." Those words are not just words to me, they represent my reality. Yet, I think America is moving away from these values, dishonoring the hard-won identity of countless immigrants. I think America needs to reclaim these values because diversity forms this country's strength and its path to renaissance.

People fleeing wars, persecution, and conflict founded the United States to build better lives. Our founders, like my family, arrived poor and desperate. Today, however, Americans attack newcomers, blame them for economic tribulations and cultural disruption. Do we steal jobs and fail to pay taxes? No, these so-called beliefs are myths. According to the National Foundation for American Policy, 55% of the country's \$1 billion start-up companies—such as Uber, SpaceX, and Avant—had at least one immigrant founder and each start-up created more than 760 jobs. In my hometown of Winooski, we have popular ethnic restaurants like Pho Dang Vietnamese Cafe and Tiny Thai; grocery stores like Sagarthama Grocery and Asian Market; businesses built and owned by immigrants, the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free." Many people from around Vermont find job opportunities here, including myself. Native-born Americans come to shop and enjoy themselves at these shops and restaurants.

In 2017, working immigrant households paid \$405 billion dollars in taxes; DACAeligible residents paid \$4 billion, according to the New America Economy Coalition. Legal and unauthorized immigrants pay taxes. Poor, "wretched refuse," struggling in our home countries, we decided that America offered more opportunities, and brought our cultures, ways of life, and strong will here. We enhance the economy and introduce new perspectives to American life. My beautiful mother hardly speaks English and works two jobs to support herself and my brothers. She pays taxes. We see her seldom because she's usually at work. From where we sit, she's contributing a lot to the economy.

We are "your tired, your poor." We are "the homeless, tempest-tost." We are here today and contributing to this country. We are the New Colossus and represent the words engraved on the pedestal supporting the Statue of Liberty. Can we keep the legacy of this sonnet alive, a legacy that truly defines this country's strength, roots to renaissance, and diversity? Listen and acknowledge stories from my mother and thousands of other immigrants. Those stories are full of hardship and revitalization. In despair, we came to "lift our lamps, beside the golden door," and we found hope for ourselves and the United States of America.

MAELY BRIGHTMAN, ST. JOHNSBURY ACADEMY,
SOPHOMORE

Today in many schools, students are receiving inadequate sex education and it's negatively impacting their health and well-being. In the United States only 24 states require public schools to have sex education and 20 of them require it to be medically accurate. The lack of coverage on subjects such as safe sex, LGBTQ topics, menstruation, and body image is damaging the well-being of today's youths.

Research shows that having accurate comprehensive sex education classes leads to lower rates of teen pregnancy and contracting an STI. Teens understand the importance of using protection and contraceptives. In fact, NCLS states that people age 15-25 make up 25% of the sexually active population but the rate of them contracting is disproportionately high. By teaching teens accurate information, they have more knowledge to make safer decisions. Medically accurate information has been shown to have a higher influence than no sex education at all or abstinence-until-marriage education.

It is also important that we do not just teach about heterosexual intercourse, but have an LGBTQ inclusive curriculum. The lack of awareness and information about the LGBTQ community leads to teens and adults who don't know how to have safe same-sex intercourse. A surprising amount of people don't know what a dental dam is. It's a protection from STIs when performing oral sex. Furthermore, teaching children about healthy, normal LGBTQ relationships would help normalize same-sex relationships and non-cisgender identities. It is an important component in supporting LGBTQ youth.

In addition, accurate sex education would help defeat the stigma in teens, specifically boys, that surrounds menstruation and other natural things that happen to girls and boys during puberty. Because of society's influence, many people end up believing that normal, healthy processes are bad or gross. This can cause bullying, low self esteem, or abuse. Sex education would help normalize these natural occurrences. That is why the government should require all public schools to have medically accurate sex education classes.

While it would be a difficult and long process, the outcome would be worth the effort. Many people are against this idea, under beliefs that kids shouldn't be exposed to the world yet or for religious reasons, however by shielding them from the truth parents ensure that their children have less knowledge and information to rely on when they reach adulthood. Typically in schools that teach sex education, they start in middle school. I feel that it is a good starting point for schools. The law would have to be changed at a federal level, so that it affects the whole nation. This would be a tedious process, however I believe it would bring a much needed improvement for American youths.

ISABELLE CHEN, OXBOW HIGH SCHOOL,
FRESHMAN

As everyone starts to shift into the next decade, there is one prominent issue that can no longer be silenced. This problem not only applies to Americans but includes every living species who wanders this earth. Despite our state of ignorance, earth has continuously given us telltale signs that climate change is quickly altering our planet. Yet many of us still refuse to see the consequences that climate change has created thus far. Unstable air quality, increase in hotter temperatures, and the rise of sea levels are a few of the repercussions that mankind has generated. Before we can solve other pressing matters like gun control or inequality, we must make global warming our top priority, for it is destroying the very ground we stand on.

According to NASA, the exploitation of fossil fuels is the main driving force in the production of atmospheric carbon dioxide. The action of burning fossil fuels leads to the consolidation of carbon and oxygen in the air to forge CO2. The depositing of excess CO2 in the atmosphere is solely based upon human activities. We lack the action needed from the government to prevent such happenings.