CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM SHOULD BE TERMINATED

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to bring to my colleague's attention a copy of a letter I recently received from the Department of Defense regarding the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

The letter from Under Secretary of the Army Joe Reeder responds to a letter I sent recently to Defense Secretary Perry about the Civilian Marksmanship Program. It confirms my longstanding belief that the time has come for the Congress to terminate this program once and for all. The letter says "* * * the Army gets no direct benefit from the program" and that there is "* * * no discernible link" between the program and our Nation's military readiness. It goes on to say, "Last year and again last week, DOD repeatedly has conveyed to Congress that, while it will continue to administer the program as directed by Congress, it will also continue to support legislation ending the program."

This letter, Mr. President, is not a plea to the Congress to save a program that enhances our military readiness and national security. To the contrary. It is an invitation to terminate the program. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the letter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the end of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1)

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, recent press reports indicate that members of extremist militia groups in this country, which may pose a threat to public safety, may be gaining access to military bases and receiving weapons, ammunition, and training at Army facilities under the auspices of the Civilian Marksmanship Program. In one article, I learned that the leader of the Michigan-based militia group told ABC's "Prime Time Live" that he had access to U.S. military bases in Michigan for the purpose of training through this program. In another article, I learned that members of the Competitive Sportsman club were asked to leave Camp Grayling base when they showed up wearing Southern Michigan Militia patches. The American people have a right to know that their tax dollars are not being used to train people who may pose a threat to law abiding citizens and to peace and order in this country. The Defense Department should either investigate these allegations or call on another branch of the U.S. Government to do so.

In the meantime, Mr. President, the Civilian Marksmanship Program should be terminated. My colleagues know that I have long believed the Civilian Marksmanship Program is a low-priority program and is an egregious example of waste in Government. The program promotes rifle training for civilians through a system of affiliated clubs and other organizations, and sponsors shooting competitions. As part of these activities, the program donates, loans, and sells weapons, ammunition, and other shooting supplies. The Department of Defense has provided me with a State-by-State breakdown listing of 1,146 member clubs that participate in this program, which I will make available to any of my colleagues who wish to read it.

The program was first established in 1903, at a time when civilian marksmanship training was believed to be important for military preparedness. Yet the Pentagon says it supports legislation to terminate it and that there is "no discernible link" between military readiness and the Civilian Marksmanship Program. As Army officials told the GAO, no Army requirements exist for civilians trained in marksmanship, and no system is in place to track program-trained personnel. In a March 15, 1994, hearing in the Senate Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, Army Secretary West stated that national security objectives will be met with or without the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

In essence, the Civilian Marksmanship Program has provided a taxpayer subsidy for recreational shooting. In light of the budget deficit we face and the military needs we ought to address, this simply is not a justifiable use of scarce resources. After all, defense dollars are not used to subsidize other sports. They ought not be used to subsidize a shooting program which has no relationship to military needs and requirements.

Additionally, the program puts the U.S. Government in the role of selling weapons and ammunition to civilians. There is no shortage of guns and ammunition available in this country through the private sector. I do not believe the U.S. Government needs to be involved in putting more guns on the street in this country.

Mr. President, Senators FEINSTEIN, LEVIN, SIMON, and I recently introduced a bill, S. 757, to terminate the Civilian Marksmanship Program. I urge my colleagues to read the letter from Under Secretary Reeder and approve that bill without delay.

EXHIBIT 1

UNDER SECRETARY OF THE ARMY,
Washington, DC, May 11, 1995.

Hon. FRANK R. LAUTENBERG,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LAUTENBERG: The Secretary of Defense, the Honorable William J. Perry, has asked me on behalf of the Army, which serves as the executive agent for the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), to respond to your letter regarding your concerns about the CMP.

The CMP was established by Congress in 1903 to develop marksmanship skills throughout our nation from which the armed forces could draw when needed for rapid mobilization. To this end, the CMP supported creation of rifle clubs throughout the country. There are 1,146 member clubs (the current listing at Tab A is an update from all previous reports on clubs).

Over time the mission of the CMP changed. Now, the current focus of the CMP is weapons safety, familiarization and the sport of marksmanship. The CMP is apolitical, and provides no instruction in military skills.

In FY 1994, the CMP spent $2.483 million of appropriated funds; $2.544 million are budgeted for FY 1995. The Army has requested no appropriated funding for the CMP in FY 1996, because the Army gets no direct benefit from the program. The FY 1996/1997 Biennial Budget Estimates submitted to Congress documents the request for no funds in FY 96. Last year and again last week, DOD repeatedly has conveyed to Congress that, while it will continue to administer the program as directed by Congress, it will also continue to support legislation ending this program. I have enclosed a copy of the recent OSD, General Counsel, response (Tab B) to The Honorable Floyd Spence, Chairman, House National Security Committee, and Ranking Minority Member Ron Dellums reiterating, ". . . no discernible link" between military readiness and the CMP.

DOD shares your concern that the CMP not inadvertently become involved with groups or individuals who may intend to harm federal or non-federal employees. To my knowledge the CMP has never endorsed the involvement of militia groups or extremists in any context. Before club status is granted, three adults responsible for the formation of the club must submit a DD Form 398–2 (Personnel Security Questionnaire) and pass a background investigation performed by the National Agency Check and Investigative Center. If Congress continues to direct that this program be implemented, we will continue to follow these procedures.

Section 4309, Title 10, United States Code, provides that all ranges built in whole or in part with Federal funds may be used by persons capable of bearing arms. Under this legislation, the CMP and other organizations may request the use of military ranges and are generally granted such use provided they comply with range and installation rules. They must not interfere with scheduled military training and their intended use must not pose a safety hazard. If we have any indication of misuse, we will take appropriate corrective action.

Thank you for your interest in this program. I hope this information addresses your concerns.

Sincerely,

JOE R. REEDER.

MINOR CROP PROTECTION ASSISTANCE ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I rise to join my colleagues as a cosponsor of the Minor Crop Protection Assistance Act. This legislation will provide much needed relief to the food and horticultural industries so important to the economy of my State and the Nation.

This purpose of this legislation is simple: It is all about economics. This legislation seeks to provide some relief to producers of minor crops who face the imminent threat of losing access to vital, and safe crop protection tools due to market forces. Currently, registration of pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act [FIFRA] with EPA is an intensive process, involving as many as 120 data requirements. Chemical manufacturers are forced to make the decision to cancel, or not reregister, crop protection tools for use on minor crops because the resulting

sales revenues will not support the high costs of reregistration. The result is that many safe minor crop protection chemicals have been dropped from production, despite the essential role they play for our minor crop growers.

The production of the minor commodities, as they are called, is in fact of major importance to Washington State. In Washington, 90 percent of our agricultural industry is in minor crops. Most notable are hops, apples, small fruits, vegetables, and hay. Washington alone produces 77 percent of all commercially consumed hops in the United States. Hops growers have five pesticides available to them, and four of these are in danger of being lost due to the high cost of reregistration. If only one pesticide is available, pests will quickly develop their resistance and this compound will become obsolete as a tool for crop protection. Another example comes from the hay producers in Washington. The hay we grow makes up one-third of the world's hay market. We export 75 percent of our product. One particular pesticide which is essential to the growth cycle is in danger of not being reregistered. If it goes, with it will go our global market share.

This purpose of this bill is not an issue of public health or public safety, this is an issue of economics. It is designed to preserve safe minor use pesticides and to encourage the development of environmentally sound pest management tools. We need to provide the economic incentive for pesticide manufacturers to pursue the costly reregistration of products with limited market potential.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognize this situation. They have worked with a coalition of minor crop producers and my colleagues, Senator LUGAR and Senator INOUYE, on this legislation. Accordingly, this bill streamlines the registration and reregistration process, and provides new incentives to the pesticide industry to pursue minor crop registrations. Most importantly, this bill reinforces EPA's authority to deny reregistration of minor use pesticides out of concern for public safety. In the Administrator's judgment, if a pesticide puts the public at too great a risk, the incentives for development, registration, or reregistration can be revoked.

A safe food supply is very important to me. Minor crops, which in large part are fruits and vegetables, are staples in the diets of infants and children, and they also receive large applications of pesticides. In its 1993 report, ''Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children,'' the National Academy of Sciences found that current pesticide standards may be inadequate to protect infants and children from pesticide exposure and recommends policies to increase protection.

While this legislation addresses a market issue, it leaves us with the responsibility of addressing the complex issue of food safety and the adequacy of the current pesticide regulatory system. In no way are we relieved of dealing with pesticide issues in a comprehensive manner.

I am very interested in promoting the development of newer, safer pesticides, and encouraging farmers to decrease their use of dangerous pesticides. Our efforts in this bill should go hand in hand with incentive-based approaches that encourage integrated pest management, and even organic production practices. I look forward to working with my colleagues to address the shortcomings of our current pesticide regulatory system, and to encourage innovative approaches for the future.

TRIBUTE TO MASSIMO SANTEUSANIO

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge a ceremony which was held yesterday in Boston to honor Mr. Massimo Santeusanio.

Mr. Santeusanio recently celebrated his 100th birthday and the ceremony is to honor not only this extraordinary event but his service during World War I. He is to this day an inspiration to those Americans who appreciate the unselfish sacrifices made in defense of freedom and liberty. During this Memorial Day period, I would like to express our country's gratitude to all World War I veterans through Massimo Santeusanio.

WELFARE REFORM

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I have today received a copy of a resolution passed by the Rhode Island House of Representatives, outlining the devastating consequences that H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility Act, would have on the State of Rhode Island if it becomes law.

This resolution, introduced by Rhode Island State Representatives Benoit, Sherlock, Williams, Kellner, and Bumpus, articulates far better than I can the great damage that this legislation would do to the neediest of Rhode Island families.

As the welfare debate begins in earnest in the Senate, I hope that my colleagues will bear in mind the strong opposition of many in my State to this proposal, and will heed in particular the part of the Rhode Island House of Representatives' resolution which urges us to ''Put children first by working for humane welfare reform that provides for all citizens in need during difficult economic times, that supports effective return-to-work programs, and that recognizes that the care given to our Nation's children is a shared Federal-State responsibility. * * *''

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution passed by the Rhode Island House of Representatives on May 10, 1995, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the resolution was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION

Whereas, under the provisions of the Personal Responsibility Act (H.R. 4), Aid to Families with Dependent Children would be replaced by the Temporary Family Assistance Block Grant, and the entitlement program which guarantees benefits to all children who qualify would be eliminated. Under the proposed block grant financing formula, Rhode Island would receive $54 million less in federal funds over the next five years, and an estimated 25,000 children would be denied benefits; and

Whereas, while the Personal Responsibility Act purports to return control to the states, the block grant legislation, in reality, contains many federal prohibitions limiting states' freedom that would deny eligibility to several categories of children and families; and

Whereas, the Personal Responsibility Act would virtually eliminate cash assistance to 21% of the disabled children currently in the SSI program, and $27 million less in federal funds would be available to Rhode Island over the next five years; and

Whereas, all child nutrition programs would be replaced by two block grants; federal funding would be reduced by 10%; federal nutrition standards would be repealed; eligibility for food stamps would be sharply curtailed by federal restrictions with the result that Rhode Island would receive a combined total of $127 million less in federal funding over the next five years; and

Whereas, funding for several major child protection programs would be sharply reduced and replaced by a block grant, and Rhode Island would receive $15 million less in federal funding over the next five years, sharply reducing funds for adoption assistance, foster care, and the computerization of the state's abuse and neglect tracking system; and

Whereas, essential child care programs that enable low-income families to work would lose their entitlement status; Rhode Island would receive $8 million less in federal funding over the next five years and $2.4 million less by the year 2000, thereby resulting in 1,570 fewer children receiving assistance; and

Whereas, most legal immigrants would be ineligible for most programs, leading to a loss in federal aid to Rhode Island of $72 million over the next five years; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby respectfully requests that the Rhode Island Congressional delegation:

1. Oppose the Personal Responsibility Act (H.R. 4) as passed by the United States House of Representatives; and

2. Put children first by working for humane welfare reform that provides for all citizens in need during difficult economic times, that supports effective return-to-work programs, and that recognizes that the care given to our nation's children is a shared federal-state responsibility; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation.

NORWEST BANK OF COLORADO AND ATLANTIS COMMUNITY, INC.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I want to say a few words of congratulation to the people who work for