

has crafted a measure that would stimulate the demand for higher quality child care and I am proud to join Senator DODD as an original cosponsor of this bill.

Our society has braved a storm of changes during the last five decades. Our Nation's work environment has changed, too, with the introduction of personal computers, high-speed modems, cellular phones, pagers, and fax machines. American suburbanization has created a need for audio and video conferencing, satellite offices, and most importantly, telecommuting. In addition, there has been an influx of women into our nation's work force. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 76 percent of mothers now work. Moreover, 63 percent of two parent households now see both parents working outside of the home. While the number of working women in our country continues to rise, so has the number of children enrolled in child care. Unfortunately, the quality of this care has not risen to match the rapid increase in enrollment. That is why we must modernize the way we provide child care assistance by allocating our scarce resources more efficiently. By doing so, our children will benefit. That is clearly an investment in our Nation's future. Congress must legislate with the times to provide opportunities for our Nation's parents and child care providers to make that investment.

It is often the case with a lot of families that one parent works to pay the bills while the other one works to pay the taxes. A lot of people are working two jobs just to make ends meet, and often, both parents are working two jobs. The resulting increase in the number of employed women in the work force has dramatically expanded the number of child care providers. This expansion is truly beneficial to parents who need available child care, but the ratio of children to providers and the ensuing reduction in the quality of that care when staff and resources are stretched is still troubling. A recent nationwide study indicates that 40 percent of the child care provided to infants poses a potential risk of injury. Moreover, 15 percent of the care at center-based providers is so deficient that a child's health and safety are threatened.

In Wyoming, the quality of the care provided to our children is taken very seriously. Child care providers licensed by the State of Wyoming must have 12 credit hours in education, CPR training, meet fire marshal standards, and have a minimum amount of floor space for the children entrusted to their care. The State ensures that all licensed providers comply with these requirements and would continue to do so if this bill is passed—but they would do so much more effectively. This legislation would provide a \$260 million competitive grant program to assist States in improving the quality of care we provide our children. States must use at

least 30 percent of the grant funds awarded to establish a subsidy program to provide salary increases to licensed child care providers. The remainder of the grant funds awarded could be channeled toward establishing a scholarship program to help child care providers meet the costs of education and training; expanding State-based child care training and technical assistance activities; improving consumer education efforts including the expansion of resource and referral services and child care complaint systems; providing increased rates of reimbursement provided under Federal or State child care assistance for children with special needs; or even for purchasing special supplies, equipment, or meeting other expenses necessary for the care of special needs children. Moreover, this legislation would further expand the Community Development Block Grant to States to help renovate existing child care facilities.

Equitable distribution of resources based on the percentage of income a family uses to meet child care expenses must be represented in any change to the current system. This legislation reduces, but does not eliminate, the dependent care tax credit for upper income taxpayers by changing the way the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit is administered. The income level for the receipt of the highest percentage of employment-related child care costs would be increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000. The percentage would be decreased at a rate of 1 percent for each additional \$2,500 in adjusted gross income and a minimum percentage of 10 percent would be set for incomes of \$70,000 and above. Employers would be allowed to contribute more to a dependent care assistance plan account. Moreover, families who qualify for the earned income tax credit [EITC] would receive a refund of the child care tax credit on a quarterly basis. The EITC was originally geared to assist families with dependent children—not couples without any kids at all. Clearly, changes are in order.

Small businesses are fighting an uphill battle in meeting the child care needs of their employees. Having played the small business owner role for over 25 years, I can appreciate the need for giving such employers a break. This legislation creates a tax credit for employers providing, or otherwise supporting, child care arrangements for their employees. Fifty percent of the expenses incurred by a business to meet the child care needs of employees would be credited toward the business' Federal tax liability. Included in this provision are startup costs, renovations to meet accreditation standards, professional development for child care providers, general operating expenses, and subsidized child care for lower paid employees. Small businesses need incentives in order to be more involved in meeting the child care needs of employees. After all, Congress is placing more parents into the work force fol-

lowing last year's welfare reform legislation. We should provide some tax incentives to employers who are providing those jobs.

This legislation would also authorize \$50 million a year to establish and operate a technology-based training infrastructure to enable child care providers nationwide to receive the training, education, and support they need to improve the quality of care they provide. We must reap the benefits of the Internet to enhance the quality of child care. We spend a lot of time talking about how the Internet can be harmful to children. Here's a chance to show how it can dramatically help them. By creating a child care training and education interactive network, child care credentialing and accreditation entities for training, skills testing, and other activities needed to maintain child care credentials would be greatly enhanced. Moreover, a no-interest revolving loan fund will be established to enable child care providers to purchase computers, satellite dishes, and other equipment which would enable them to participate in the child care training provided by this technological infrastructure.

The current system for funding child care in our nation yearns for improvement. This legislation does not reinvent the wheel, it changes the tires. States must continue to receive assistance in order to achieve a higher quality of care for our children. This legislation simply provides more efficient and pragmatic methods for administering that assistance. I believe that this legislation provides the proper incentives for enhancing the quality of care we provide our children. Our society's work force is driven by changing trends. I can comfortably argue that our society is one of the most trendy in the world—a fact that has kept America on the leading edge of technological innovation. I hope that before people begin making up their minds on this bill they will take a close look at the language and what it really calls for—better care for our kids. Our Nation's work force is calling for this much-needed change. I urge my colleagues to support S. 1037, the CIDCARE bill.

#### MILWAUKEE VET CENTER

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to praise the people of the Milwaukee Vet Center. For 17 years now these Wisconsinites have counseled and assisted veterans during the difficult period of readjustment from frontline to homefront.

Fighting a war is a terrible experience, inflicting physical and psychological wounds which few veterans can fully heal on their own. The Milwaukee Vet Center has helped over 8,800 veterans of American missions in their attempts to overcome these psychological battle scars. Originally established for Vietnam veterans, its doors are now open to veterans of every major American engagement since World War II.

This center stands as a prime example of success in our Nation's social services. A division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, it provides comprehensive and personalized counseling, not only to male and female veterans but also to their spouses and children. Although the center's responsibilities include 91,513 eligible veterans in 13 eastern Wisconsin counties, its workers strive to make personal contact with as many veterans as possible. Its outreach programs engage veterans in the context of their communities, granting a fuller knowledge of where each individual stands geographically, psychologically and socially. Working with other specialized organizations, the center provides individualized services for native American and African-American veterans, among others.

Those who enter the Milwaukee Vet Center seeking help know they are dealing with some of America's most experienced social workers. Collectively, the center's employees possess decades of experience in the fields of drug and alcohol abuse, mental health problems, vocational rehabilitation, women's health treatment, and psychiatric treatment. They have worked in the public and private sectors, schools, hospitals, even disaster areas.

The Vet Center provides hands-on field experience for students in local colleges and universities such as the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the Stratton Business Institute. By sharing their wealth of experience, the Vet Center's professionals enrich these students' education and more importantly guide them on the path to a fulfilling career in public service.

I commend the heroic efforts of these public servants, and personally thank them for playing an important part in making Wisconsin great. ●

#### MFN FOR CHINA

● Mr. DORGAN. Mr President, I rise to comment briefly on an action taken by the Senate last week. We voted on an amendment offered by the Senator from Arkansas, Senator HUTCHINSON, expressing the sense of the Senate that China should not receive most-favored-nation tariff treatment.

I voted against the Hutchinson amendment, but not because I necessarily support the further extension of most-favored-nation status to China. I opposed the amendment because I believe this kind of amendment should not have been offered to a must-pass appropriations bill, especially when the Senate had limited time to debate it.

At the appropriate time, we do need to have an extensive debate concerning our trade relationship with China. That debate is long overdue and greatly needed, and that debate should cover a range of issues. One of the issues that we should debate is the geometric growth in our trade deficit with China. In the past dozen years, our merchan-

dise trade deficit with China has grown from \$10 billion to the staggering total of \$40 billion.

Mr. President, trade is only beneficial if it is a two-way street. And right now there is no way that we can characterize our trading relationship with China in that way. We do not have reciprocal, free, and open access to China's markets.

Yes, our exports to China may have grown threefold and more since 1980, from \$3.6 to \$12 billion. However, Chinese exports to America during the same period grew almost fiftyfold, from \$1.1 to \$51.5 billion.

China is a critical part of the overall trade crisis that we face right now. We have the largest merchandise trade deficit in our history. Our second highest trade deficit is with China. China is rapidly working to build its manufacturing base and export trade. It is following in the footsteps of Japan, which has consistently been the country with which we have had our largest individual trade deficit.

We need to be concerned because trade statistics released last week indicated that for the third time in history, our monthly trade deficit with China exceeded our monthly trade deficit with Japan. That should give us cause to take a second look in considering what the future may bring in our trade relationship with China.

So I am very concerned about our trading relationship with China. But we ought to have a substantial debate on this issue. We ought not offer an MFN amendment to an unrelated appropriations bill, have a quick little debate, and then vote.

At the proper time, let us have a real debate about our trade relationship with China. Let us talk about trade deficits, market access, and reciprocity. Let us talk about selling more American wheat, oilseeds, beef, pork, and other agricultural commodities to China. Let us talk about China's tariff and nontariff trade barriers, content rules, and labor systems. Let us debate most-favored-nation status for China and the MFN law itself. And, most certainly, let us debate the issues of religious freedom and human rights in China, since these should have a bearing too on whether we grant MFN status to China.

These are important issues that deserve full and thoughtful consideration by this body and our entire Nation. I look forward to contributing to that debate, and hope that it can be done in a way that is productive and useful for the people of this country. ●

#### MARVIN SONOSKY

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who spent his life and career working on behalf of Indian tribal governments and ensuring that the United States fulfilled its trust responsibility to Indian people, Marvin Sonosky of Alexandria, VA. On July 16, Mr. Sonosky died of

heart failure. He was 66 years old. I join his many friends in mourning the loss of one of Indian country's greatest advocates. I would like to convey my sympathy to his wife, Shirley Freimuth Sonosky, and his daughters Judith Kreisberg, Joann Hirsch, and Karen Hecker and his seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mr. Sonosky was born in Duluth, MN, and received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Minnesota. After 4 years of private practice, Mr. Sonosky came to Washington in 1937 and joined the Lands Division of the Department of Justice where he served for 17 years. As a special assistant to the Attorney General he frequently argued before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1951, Mr. Sonosky returned to private practice. In 1976, he formed the firm of Sonosky, Chambers & Sachse, where he practiced until his death. He remained active in the trial practice of the firm through the last week of his life.

Mr. Sonosky was a unique individual in this city in that he was one of the best advocates in his field yet he never sought the accolades or tributes that so many seek. Instead his tribute came from knowing that every day that he worked he had the potential to improve perhaps just one Indian person's life.

I would like to share with this body some of the many legislative initiatives involving Indian tribes that were the brainchild of Mr. Sonosky. These are but one measure of the impact that he had in improving the lives and opportunities of Indian tribal governments and their people and ensured that the United States stands behind its trust obligations to them.

Following devastating losses of Indian reservation land and its resulting poverty, Mr. Sonosky worked with Congress to secure the enactment of federal statutes that returned over 1 million acres of undisposed surplus lands within those reservations to the tribes—the resources from these lands have been vital to the economies of many of these Indian communities.

Mr. Sonosky also brought to the attention of Congress the need to amend Federal law authorizing Indian tribes to recover just compensation for lands taken by the United States so that the damages awarded would not be unfairly diminished by the value of food and rations that the United States had promised in exchange for the lands it acquired. When Government officials unlawfully offset welfare claims against trust funds of individual Indians, Mr. Sonosky successfully challenged the practice in Federal court. He subsequently worked with Congress to ensure that all individual Indians who had been harmed by this practice were properly reimbursed.

While much of Mr. Sonosky's congressional efforts focused on righting past wrongs, an equal part of his work resulted in legislation that will protect Indian rights for generations to come.