

Hispanic Caucus. Under his chairmanship, educational opportunities for Hispanic Americans have grown considerably: Hispanic Serving Institutions have received record-level funding, bilingual education programs once threatened have been strengthened, nearly \$500 million has been allocated for the President's Latino Education Plan, and equal access to technology for students in rural and urban centers has been enhanced through the e-rate program.

Chairman BECERRA has demonstrated great leadership and distinguished himself as powerful legislative voice in pushing for a positive agenda that includes expanding health care, reducing the naturalization backlog at the INS, promoting fairness in our judicial system, ensuring a fair and accurate census, and protecting voting rights.

It has been a privilege for the Democratic Caucus to work with Chairman Becerra and his fellow members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. I am going to miss the leadership of Chairman XAVIER BECERRA, but I look forward to his continuing friendship and to developing a strong working relationship with the next Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

COMMUNITY BROADCASTERS PROTECTION ACT OF 1998

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, the 105th Congress is likely to adjourn without enacting S. 1427, the Community Broadcasters Protection Act of 1998. Even so, I want to provide my colleagues a status report on the bill and advise them of the prospects for passage next year.

The principal purpose of S. 1427 is to provide permanent "Class A licenses" for low-power broadcasters. Currently these broadcasters have secondary status, which means that they can be bumped from their place on the spectrum by a full-power station. Without permanent status, these broadcasters have a hard time obtaining long-term capital.

After introducing this legislation last year, I worked with the staff of the Federal Communications Committee to refine the bill. In pursuing this matter, I have sought to provide a degree of certainty for low power broadcasters without creating any unintended consequences for other users of the spectrum. The result, which was reported from the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on October 1, has achieved that goal.

The core mission of low power broadcasters is to provide programming for local communities that are not served by full power stations. These underserved communities may be in rural areas or in large metropolitan areas. In my state, we have a low-power station that provides programming that is geared to the interests of rural Kentuckians. However, in Washington, D.C., low power broadcasters provide Spanish language programming to

meet the needs of the Hispanic population in this area.

The FCC has recognized the unique role that community broadcasters play in providing programming to underserved audiences. Earlier this year, when I asked Chairman Kennard for his comments on the legislation, he responded favorably. Chairman Kennard said, "Having reviewed the legislation, I have no major concerns with the bill."

Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator McCAIN, the chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Senator HOLLINGS, the ranking Democrat on the committee, and my other colleagues on the committee for their support of this legislation. As of today, 13 members of the Commerce Committee have joined as cosponsors. Also I want to express my appreciation to Senator BURNS, the chairman of the Communications Subcommittee. Senator BURNS has cosponsored S. 1427, and he has advised that he will introduce this legislation when the 106th Congress convenes next year. I thank my colleague for his continued interest in and support for community broadcasters. I am very pleased to leave this legislation in the capable hands of the Senator from Montana.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kentucky for his remarks and want to confirm that I plan to introduce this legislation next year. Also, I want to congratulate Senator FORD on his efforts on this legislation. Due to his persistence, much of the preliminary work on this bill has been done. While we will miss his presence on the Commerce Committee next year, we will continue to benefit from his work as a member of this body.

Mr. FORD. Again, I thank the Senator from Montana and wish him luck in this effort next year. The community broadcasters of the nation have earned a permanent place on the broadcast spectrum.

THE SENATE SAYS GOODBYE TO SENATOR DIRK KEMPTHORNE

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, when one speaks of the State of Idaho, we think of her glorious and rugged landscape, her fertile valleys, her waters ideal for fishing, her world-class ski resorts, her national parks and forests, with land fit for hiking, or biking, and, of course, her reputation as the potato capital of the world. Following the end of the 105th Congress, I daresay that our associations to the State of Idaho will also include the name of DIRK KEMPTHORNE, the state's junior Senator and one of this body's most respected Members. Although our friend from the west is leaving the Senate after only one six-year term, I, for one, will remember him fondly for years to come.

Senator KEMPTHORNE and I formerly served together as Chairman and Ranking Member, respectively, of the Personnel Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee. We worked to-

gether to introduce legislation requiring the study of gender integrated training in the military. That association has been pleasant, and, I believe, productive. To be sure, I have not always agreed with his policy proposals, or he with mine. On many issues, including the balanced budget constitutional amendment and the unfunded mandates legislation, we have held opposing views.

Throughout the lengthy debate on the unfunded mandates bill in early 1995, the Senator was conscientious, thorough, and fair. His grace and courtesy in managing that bill were impressive, particularly for someone so new to the Senate. And, as we all know, his efforts paid off after deliberate consideration and compromise. Moreover, with passage of the unfunded mandates bill, Senator KEMPTHORNE holds the honor of being the most junior member of the Senate since World War II to author, manage, and win passage of a bill numbered Senate Bill One.

When he leaves these hallowed halls, Senator KEMPTHORNE will return to his home state. Boise, of course, is familiar ground for Senator KEMPTHORNE, serving as that city's forty-third Mayor, from 1985 until 1992, when the people of Idaho elected him to his present seat in the Senate. Incidentally, he became so popular during his first term as Mayor that he faced no opposition in his bid for a second term! How many of our colleagues would like to be in that situation? How many of us would like to be so universally popular, and be held in such high respect by our constituents, that such popularity and respect would foreclose potential challengers?

I congratulate Senator KEMPTHORNE on his fine service here, and I wish him and his nice family happiness in future years.

DRUG PRICE COMPETITION AND PATENT TERM RESTORATION ACT

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, 14 years ago, when I served as Chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, I teamed up with Representative HENRY WAXMAN, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, to lead passage of the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984.

The bottom line of this law was to improve the health of the American people. The statute accomplishes this in two primary ways: First, it essentially created the market for more moderately priced generic drugs by allowing generic manufacturers to demonstrate their equivalence to pioneer products without duplicating all of the original safety and efficacy data. Relieved of this costly burden, generic drug firms can provide their products at competitive prices which are attractive to many consumers.

Second, pioneer drug firms became eligible for restoration of some of the patent term lost due to the extensive