

commitment to education, uses a combination of a state's effort to fund education and a state's willingness to more equitably distribute resources among a state's economically diverse school districts. As I have noted, Utah allocates a significant amount of state revenue to education, demonstrating our state's effort. Utah also has in place an "equity program" for assisting schools with smaller tax bases. Nationally, we ought to be encouraging states to make such effort, and we ought to be rewarding states that do. This is an important program that deserves a consistent funding stream, and I will be addressing this issue in the context of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

In the area of higher education, this Budget Resolution rejects the administration's proposal to require guaranty agencies, which finance guaranteed student loans (GSLs), to pay accelerated and increased funds from their federal reserves. This would be especially devastating to Utah's Higher Education Assistance Authority (UHEAA). Utah has one of the lowest average incomes in the nation; and, therefore, Utah students who are not reliant on their parents for financial assistance rely instead on assistance from UHEAA.

During past assessments, because UHEAA had maintained one of highest guarantee program reserves ratios, Utah had to return one of the highest percentages of current reserves to the federal government. Under the administration's proposal, these cuts would have been deepened, and I am grateful to the Budget committee for rejecting them.

In closing, I would like to commend the tireless hard work of the Chairman of the Budget Committee, Senator DOMENICI. His dedication to sound fiscal policy and appropriate spending priorities are laudable. I also thank the Senate leadership for their efforts on moving this process along. I look forward to the enactment of this Budget Resolution. I thank the chair and yield the floor.

#### PASSAGE OF S. 376 "ORBIT"

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to support the conference report on satellite reform. As a co-sponsor of the original bill, I believe this bipartisan legislation will encourage more competition in the satellite communications market. This will benefit American consumers and workers. It will also make America more competitive in the global satellite market.

The Open-market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications Act (ORBIT bill) will benefit our nation in a number of ways. First, the bill allows Lockheed Martin to acquire 100% of COMSAT Corporation by removing a number of old and outdated regulatory barriers. This is great news for these two outstanding

Maryland companies and their employees. The merger will encourage growth and economic competition in one of the most dynamic sectors of our economy—the global satellite market. It means jobs today and jobs tomorrow—both in Maryland and throughout our nation. I look forward to Lockheed Martin and COMSAT completing their merger without any further delay.

Second, this legislation encourages the privatization of INTELSAT, an inter-governmental organization, by including the leverage necessary to ensure that INTELSAT's privatization will conclude in a timely and pro-competitive manner.

Third, the conference agreement also reaffirms the ability of carriers to obtain Level III direct access. Level III direct access allows customers to enter into contractual agreements with INTELSAT to order, receive and pay for INTELSAT space segment capacity at the same rate that INTELSAT charges its signatories. This means that users of INTELSAT services will be able to purchase services directly from INTELSAT without going through COMSAT.

Fourth, the bill does not remove the current prohibition on Level IV direct access until after INTELSAT privatizes. Allowing Level IV access before privatization would have unfairly and unjustly permitted COMSAT's competitors to buy all of COMSAT's investment in INTELSAT below market value which would have weakened the value of this international asset. This would have significantly diminished the value of the Lockheed-COMSAT transaction.

I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the Senate and in the House for passing S. 376 and commend the President for signing this important legislation into law.

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, April 24 marks the 85th anniversary of the beginning of one of the most tragic events in history, the Armenian Genocide. In 1915, the Ottoman Turkish Government embarked on a brutal policy of ethnic extermination. Over the next eight years, 1.5 million Armenians were killed, and more than half a million were forced from their homeland into exile.

In the years since then, the Armenian diaspora has thrived in the United States and in many other countries, bringing extraordinary vitality and achievement to communities across America and throughout the world. The Armenian Assembly of America, the Armenian National Committee of America, and other distinguished groups deserve great credit for their impressive work in maintaining the proud history and heritage of the Armenian people, and guaranteeing that the Armenian Genocide will never be forgotten.

One of the enduring achievements of the survivors of the Genocide and their

descendants has been to keep its tragic memory alive, in spite of continuing efforts by those who refuse to acknowledge the atrocities that took place. In Massachusetts, the curriculum of every public school now includes human rights and genocide, and the Armenian Genocide is part of that curriculum.

As this new century unfolds, it is time for all governments, political leaders and peoples everywhere to recognize the Armenian Genocide. These annual commemorations are an effective way to pay tribute to the courage and suffering and triumph of the Armenian people, and to ensure that such atrocities will never happen again to any people on earth.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, each year on April 24, we pause to remember the tragedy of the Armenian genocide. On that date in 1915, more than two hundred Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople (now Istanbul) and killed, marking the beginning of an organized campaign to eliminate the Armenian presence from the Ottoman Empire. This brutal campaign would result in the massacre of a million and a half Armenian men, women, and children.

Thousands of Armenians were subjected to torture, deportation, slavery, and murder. More than five hundred thousand were removed from their homes and sent on forced death marches through the deserts of Syria. This dark time is among the saddest chapters in human history.

But Armenians are strong people, and their dream of freedom did not die. More than seventy years after the genocide, the new Republic of Armenia was born as the Soviet Union crumbled. Today, we pay tribute to the courage and strength of a people who would not know defeat.

Yet independence has not meant an end to their struggle. There are still those who question the reality of the Armenian slaughter, who have failed to recognize its very existence. We must not allow the horror of the Armenian genocide to be either dismissed or denied.

Genocide is the worst of all crimes against humanity. As we try to learn from the recent genocidal conflicts in Kosovo and Rwanda and prevent future atrocities, it is especially important to remember those who lost their lives in the first genocide of the twentieth century. We must never forget the victims of the Armenian genocide.

#### A MODERN DAY TRAGEDY

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I come to the floor of the Senate today to tell a story—a modern day tragedy about a mother, Elizabeth, who so loved her son, Elian, that she tried to bring him to the shores of the United States of America from Cuba—to the shores of freedom. Had she succeeded, she would have joined her family members already in the United States: her cousin