

If the law is not reauthorized, the production of assault weapons can legally resume. Restarting production of these weapons will increase their number and availability and inevitably lead to a rise in gun crimes committed with assault weapons. The Senate has shown bipartisan majorities for renewing the assault weapons ban. President Bush should demand that Congress act this year to extend the ban.

GAO FEBRUARY COMPETITIVE SOURCING REPORT

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I have repeatedly voiced my opposition to the Administration's aggressive outsourcing agenda which I believe comes at too high a cost to Federal workers and to Government accountability and cost-effectiveness. My concerns are confirmed by a February 2004 General Accounting Office, GAO, report entitled, "Competitive Sourcing: Greater Emphasis Needed on Increasing Efficiency and Improving Performance," GAO-04-367. I highly recommend this report to my colleagues.

The GAO reviewed the Federal outsourcing agenda at seven agencies: the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Interior, Agriculture, Education, and Veteran's Affairs. These agencies contain 84 percent of Federal jobs eligible for outsourcing. The administration has identified 304,800 Federal jobs for outsourcing at the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, and Interior alone, which represent nearly 42 percent of the total workforce of these agencies.

GAO found that the examined Federal agencies are focusing more on implementing Office of Management and Budget, OMB, mandates on the number of competitions at the expense of cost-efficiency. In 2001, the administration had established the goal of privatizing up to 50 percent of federal jobs. However on July 23, 2003, the OMB's Administrator for Procurement Policy, Angela Styles, testified before the Governmental Affairs Committee that contracting quotas would be terminated and replaced by agency-specific plans.

This shift in policy came after repeated criticisms from both sides of the aisle in the Senate and the House of Representatives. For example, the FY03 Transportation, Treasury, and General Government Appropriations Act severely restricted the use of contracting quotas as a result of strong bipartisan opposition.

There are important steps we can take now to improve the cost-effectiveness and fairness of public-private competitions. As ranking member of the Governmental Affairs Financial Management Subcommittee and the Senate Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee, I am working to improve the financial transparency and cost-savings of Federal outsourcing policies. Federal contracts should be required to generate at least 10 percent savings

over agency costs. The Federal Procurement Data System, FPDS, reports that the Federal Government spent approximately \$250 billion on Federal contracts in 2002. The Senate passed FY04 Omnibus Appropriations Act would have required a minimum of 10 percent cost-savings before Federal jobs are contracted out. Unfortunately, this measure was stripped from the FY04 Omnibus Appropriation Act.

The GAO report reaffirms the need for a minimum cost-savings in Federal procurement policies. By law, the Department of Defense, DOD, is required to achieve cost-savings before jobs are contracted out. DOD is the largest buyer of contracted services and according to recent FPDS data spent over \$164 billion in 2002.

We can also improve fairness in public-private competitions. Before decisions are made to contract out Federal work, agencies need the personnel, funding, and technology to ensure that the work is performed in a timely and cost-effective manner. We cannot expect Federal employees to oversee billions of dollars of contracts without these resources, which is why I was disappointed to learn that GAO found that six out of the seven agency offices examined had only one or two employees overseeing outsourcing activities.

Moreover, we should level the playing field so that Federal workers have the right to appeal the loss of a competition just as contractors do today. Fair competition must ensure that affected employees have proper appeals and protest rights. Unlike Federal employees, Federal contractors have the right to protest OMB Circular A-76 decisions before the GAO. I am disappointed that the FY04 Omnibus Appropriation Act stripped a provision that would have provided Federal workers the same appeal rights as contractors.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to ensure that Federal procurement policies offer the best return on the dollar and are fair to Federal workers. The results of this GAO review reaffirms that there is more work to be done in this area.

WISCONSIN'S ACQUISITION OF A WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I was very happy to learn this week that Wisconsin will be one of 12 new States to receive funding for a full-time Weapon of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team—WMD-CST—this year and I want to congratulate the Wisconsin National Guard for their efforts to secure a full-time team. These teams, made up of members of the National Guard, play a vital role in assisting local first responders in investigating and combating the new threat we face in the 21st century. During the 2002 Baseball All-Star Game in Milwaukee, WI had to call in Minnesota's civil support team because Wisconsin did not

yet have a full-time team. I am pleased that Wisconsin will now have its own capability to quickly respond and protect its citizens from possible terrorist threats.

I have worked for years now to assure that all states and territories have at least one of these teams and I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for helping me in this endeavor. We have had great success. The Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 made it law that all states and territories have at least one WMD-CST and Congress authorized and appropriated the funds to establish 12 of the 23 teams during fiscal year 2004. Now we must make sure that the last 11 teams are funded in fiscal year 2005.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

SALUTING DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

• Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a service sorority dedicated to promoting sisterhood, scholarship and service, for their efforts in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as of the end of 2002, an estimated 42 million people worldwide—38.6 million adults and 3.2 million children younger than 15 years of age—were living with HIV/AIDS. Approximately 70 percent of these people, 29.4 million, live in Sub-Saharan Africa; another 17 percent, 7.2 million, live in Asia. Of the estimated 15,603 AIDS-related deaths in the United States in the year 2001, approximately 52 percent were among African Americans and Hispanics. Racial and ethnic minority populations constitute more than 57 percent of the more than 800,000 cases of AIDS reported in the United States since the epidemic was discovered in 1981. Further, the Centers for Disease Control reports that as of December 2001, African Americans and Hispanics represented 52 percent of AIDS cases reported among males and 78 percent of those in females. Fifty-eight percent of all women reported living with AIDS that year were African Americans and 20 percent were Hispanic. African American children represented 58 percent of all pediatric cases. Of the 175 pediatric AIDS cases reported in 2001, 139, 79 percent, were African Americans and Hispanic. AIDS is one of the leading cause of death among African-American men ages 24 to 44. Recognizing the urgency of the issue, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has taken a leadership role in educating the global community on how to decrease the AIDS pandemic, thus promoting health and wellness.

Delta Sigma Theta's effort focuses on an intense HIV/AIDS Education Campaign beginning with encouraging local Delta chapters to implement internal