

chance in the workplace. Frank worked at that plant for 23 years and missed just 3 days of work, and that was because of a blizzard.

Today the brazen discrimination and prejudice that Frank faced are part of what seems like a medieval past. We have overcome the false dichotomy between "disabled" and "able." We recognize that people with disabilities—like all people—have unique abilities, talents, and aptitudes and that America is better, fairer, and richer when we make full use of those gifts.

We have made amazing progress in just 16 years. For millions of Americans with disabilities, it truly is a revolution. It has been a quiet revolution, but it has also been a profound revolution.

The day that the ADA passed was the proudest day of my legislative career. But every Senator who voted "aye" can look back, 16 years later, with enormous pride in this achievement. We were present at the creation. But our creation now has a robust life of its own. The ADA has been integrated into the fabric of American life. It has changed lives—and changed our Nation. It has made the American Dream possible for tens of millions of people who used to be trapped in a nightmare of prejudice and exclusion. This truly is a triumph.

I am reluctant, in any way, to take away from the celebration of this anniversary, but I am obliged to point out that the ADA revolution is not yet complete.

When we passed the ADA, we set four great national goals for Americans with disabilities: equal opportunity, independent living, full participation, and economic self-sufficiency. There is more work that needs to be done to reach the full promise of these goals.

Right now, 16 years after the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is a shocking fact that more than 60 percent of people with disabilities are not employed. We need to do a better job of ensuring that people with disabilities have job opportunities—and not just any job but one that is equal to their interests and talents and pays accordingly.

We need to make sure that people with disabilities have access to health care, with accessible medical equipment and properly trained medical professionals. We also need to make sure that they have access to health and wellness programs that focus on their unique needs. Just this week, I introduced a bill—S. 3717—that will go a long way toward accomplishing these goals.

At the same time, we need to continue our progress in reversing the institutional bias in Medicaid. We need to move away from the days when two-thirds of Medicaid long-term-care dollars are spent on institutional services, with only one-third going to community-based care.

My bill, S. 401, also known as MiCASSA—which is short for the Medicaid Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports Act—would level

the playing field by requiring States to cover community services under their Medicaid Programs.

With appropriate community-based services and supports, we can transform the lives of people with disabilities. They can live with family and friends, not strangers. They can be the neighbor down the street, not the person warehoused down the hall. This is not asking too much. This is the bare minimum that we should demand for every human being.

The ADA is to people with disabilities what the Emancipation Proclamation was to African-Americans. But one of the great shames of American history is that it took a full century from the Emancipation Proclamation until the Civil Rights Act actually made good on Lincoln's promise.

I say to my colleagues, we cannot allow history to repeat itself. We cannot wait a century for people with disabilities to be fully integrated into our society and our workforce. We need to fulfill the full promise of the ADA now.

Yes, it takes money to pay for personal attendant services. But I think of my nephew, Kelly, who became a paraplegic while serving in the military. The Veterans Administration pays for his attendant services. This allows Kelly to get up in the morning, go to work, operate his small business, pay his taxes, and be a fully contributing member of our society.

That is what every person with a disability wants. The costs of MiCASSA would be largely offset by the benefit of having people with disabilities who are employed, paying taxes, and contributing to the economy.

It is a disgrace that, as I said, more than 60 percent of people with disabilities do not have jobs. Right now, they are unemployed and dependent. We want them employed and independent. This would be a boon for them. It would be a boon for the economy. And it would be a boon for the budget.

So I cannot think of a better way to celebrate the 16th anniversary of the ADA than by rededicating ourselves to completing the ADA revolution. This means passing MiCASSA. This means passing the Promoting Wellness for Individuals with Disabilities Act. It means giving people with disabilities not just the right to be independent and have a job but the wherewithal to be independent and hold a job.

Mr. President, one final thought: In sign language, there is a wonderful sign for the word "America." It is this: all the fingers in one hand joined tightly together, with the other hand tracing a circle around the joined fingers. This describes an America for all, where we are not separate, where no one is left out, and we are all embraced by a circle, the circle of the American family.

For centuries, Americans with disabilities were tragically left out of that circle. Our American family was not yet whole, not yet fully inclusive. The passage of the ADA 16 years ago rectified that. It brought everyone, including people with disabilities, into the circle. It made our American family—at last—complete.

That is the historic achievement we celebrate today. That is the historic achievement that we must safeguard for generations to come. One America. One inclusive American family that respects the dignity, the value, and the civil rights of all, including Americans with disabilities.

SCHIP AT 10: A DECADE OF COVERING CHILDREN

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend the Finance Committee and Senators HATCH and ROCKEFELLER for holding a hearing on the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP. This program has meant a decade of health care coverage for millions of low-income children who would otherwise be uninsured.

My interest and commitment to the success of the SCHIP program goes back to its inception. My father, the late Senator John H. Chafee, along with Senator ROCKEFELLER, designed and introduced S. 674, the Children's Health Insurance Provides Security, CHIPS, Act on April 30, 1997. With help from a bipartisan coalition of Members, including Senators HATCH and KENNEDY, this effort came to fruition later that year when Congress approved the State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP.

When SCHIP was introduced there were 10 million uninsured children in the United States including 3 million who were eligible for Medicaid but were not enrolled. The SCHIP program sought to alleviate this unmet need by offering States additional Federal funds if they provided Medicaid coverage to children from families whose income was under 150 percent of the Federal poverty level. This would mean coverage for a family of four earning \$30,000 per year. The bill also provided grant funds for States to reach out and enroll eligible children.

Although some States were slow to implement their programs, to date all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the 5 territories have SCHIP programs in operation. The SCHIP program has been a tremendous success; the share of uninsured children has dropped from 23 percent to 15 percent of the population since 1997. Today, more than 4 million low-income children who would otherwise be uninsured have access to doctors, immunizations, and preventative health care through SCHIP. Since 1997, enrollment has steadily increased to the point that 6.2 million children are currently covered.

Rhode Island's program has also been a success story. Since the program began on October 1, 1997, that State has enrolled 25,573 uninsured children. The State has also expanded its income eligibility requirement to cover additional low-income families. One reason for this great success is the SCHIP program's flexibility in benefit structure

and design. States are allowed to expand eligibility levels, cover parents of children on SCHIP, and in some cases childless adults. Rhode Island has utilized this flexibility to develop innovative strategies to address its uninsured.

One example of this innovation was Rhode Island's recognition of the importance of covering families. Studies cited by the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured show that parents are more likely to enroll their children in SCHIP if the entire family is covered. Parents who have the proper health care coverage are more likely to stay healthy and avoid missed days at work. The same is true of their children; preventative screenings and immunizations will allow them to remain healthy, avoid expensive hospitalizations, and stay in school.

States may appeal to the Secretary of Health and Human Services for waivers to expand their program beyond current law requirements. Along with 15 other States, Rhode Island has a waiver that allows it to use SCHIP funds to cope with the growing number of uninsured. States such as Arizona, Idaho, Oregon, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Virginia have similar waivers.

We have a growing crisis with the number of uninsured in this country. Estimates place the number of uninsured at 45 million, up from 41 million a few years ago. We should reward States that use innovative approaches with their SCHIP programs to expand coverage. Until comprehensive solutions are found to help States fill the coverage gaps, we should not penalize them for taking advantage of existing resources and programs.

To this end, I have been proud to support legislation that maintained funding for the SCHIP program and reallocated funding to coverage-expanding States. In 2003 I was the lead Republican on legislation introduced by Senator ROCKEFELLER to keep \$2.7 billion in the program until the end of fiscal year 2004 and reallocate funds to other States through fiscal year 2005. This bill also included a provision I fought for that is important to States like Rhode Island. It allows States with expansive Medicaid Programs that covered uninsured children prior to SCHIP's enactment to use 20 percent of SCHIP funds to cover these children. This is significant since SCHIP provides a higher Federal match than Medicaid. States that did the right thing by covering pre-SCHIP children were being penalized by not receiving the higher match.

In closing, I thank Senators ROCKEFELLER and HATCH for holding a hearing on SCHIP and honoring its tremendous accomplishments over the past 10 years. The SCHIP program has been an integral part of our health care safety net. As we turn to reauthorization and the challenges facing the program in fiscal year 2007, I look forward to working with the bipartisan coalition whose vision created the program. We must work together to keep SCHIP strong so

that the progress and the innovations made with the program will not be lost.

PASSAGE OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I wish to add my voice to the celebration of a significant event in this Senate: the renewal of the Voting Rights Act for 25 years. This legislation is part of our efforts in the Senate to come together to make sure the America of 2031 is a whole lot more successful at bridging racial divides than we are today.

I grew up in a large Jewish family in New York City. One of my parent's favorite entertainers was a Jewish comedian named Georgie Jessel. I am sure some of my senior colleagues remember him. In the 1950s he was a good friend of the stunning and talented African-American singer and actress Lena Horne. From time to time they would go out to dinner. You should know that even in New York in those days, they had segregated clubs. Well, by chance or by accident, Mr. Jessel scheduled one of their dinner dates in one of those clubs. The maitre'd took one look at her skin color and said indignantly, "Who made your reservation?" Jessel shot back, "Abraham Lincoln."

Lincoln made a reservation for us all. One hundred and forty years later, we are still struggling to keep it.

One of my most vivid experiences since I came to the Senate was a civil rights delegation to Alabama sponsored by the Faith and Politics Institute a couple years ago. Representative JOHN LEWIS helped to lead the delegation, and shared with us his experiences. We stopped at the Rosa Parks Museum at Troy State University in Montgomery and reflected on the bus boycott. We visited the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church, where the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., used to preach, and the civil rights Memorial. I was struck with the fact that I visited these historic locations in peace and security. A generation ago, the visitors who came from outside the South to these locations endured threats, vilification, and violence.

This visit reminded me of a simple truth: Individuals such as Parks, King and so many others, shape our society. As we look at the challenges and injustices of the world around us, we often ask the question, How can we change the world? I think we often look in the wrong place for change. We look to big government, big business, big entertainment, or big publishing to bring about change. It is comparatively easy to change a speech or a law or a budget. The real challenge is in changing hearts. And that job falls to all of us who are willing to speak out, willing to model understanding and willing to change. Our hope lies in the fact that in America, there are no "ordinary people."

I often like to say that a leader without followers is just a person taking a

walk. The Dr. Kings and Rosa Parks are all around us, in need of the followers and workers who will inspire major change.

Every person has the ability to shape our Nation with their vote. As a democracy, this Nation is built on the idea that we look to the people, and the way we do that is by the power of their vote. Voting is the recognition that each person, each individual, each vote, is important. We cannot afford to sustain any impediment to that process. If we do not defend the freedom to vote, the product of our democracy is dulled and diminished—it is not a true reflection of what is America.

Legislation we passed in the Congress has been crucial: the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, and a series of additional measures right into our own decade. Vigorous enforcement of those statutes is essential. The Voting Rights Act recognizes that one of the best things that government can do for their people is make them secure to cast their votes. The Voting Rights Act recognizes that in a free society, the people lead.

The United States is unique in world history because we are a nation built upon rights rather than privileges. We believe we have been endowed by our Creator—not our government—with rights such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The American concept of rights is a large set. We have the freedom of religion. We have the freedom of speech and assembly. We have the right to be secure against government intrusion in our homes and private affairs. We have a free press. And to a greater degree than ever, we have the freedom to vote in this country and to have those votes count.

If you pull any one of those freedoms out of the set, the whole thing collapses. Each of our rights protects and reinforces all the others. All the American rights get stronger with the passage of this bill and that's something to celebrate.

But we shouldn't pat ourselves on the back for too long. We can deal with voting inequality by strictly and aggressively enforcing this law, but we have a long list of issues of economic inequality to deal with. We have achievement gaps in our schools. We have housing gaps in our home ownership markets. We have health gaps in access to quality care.

Racial equality in America is race without a finish line. We have finished a lap today, but as Robert Frost wrote, "We have promises to keep, and miles to go before we sleep."

TRIBUTE TO FLOYD LANDIS, WINNER OF THE 2006 TOUR DE FRANCE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate an incredible feat of physical and mental endurance, a feat that was completed on Sunday, July 23. Floyd Landis, a native