

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

of Lancaster County, PA, completed the 20th stage of the 2006 Tour de France with an overall time of 89 hours, 39 minutes and 30 seconds, winning the race by 57 seconds in the closest three-way finish in the long history of the tour.

In winning the 93rd Tour de France, Floyd Landis became just the third American cyclist to win this most prestigious of races, joining previous American victors Greg Lemond and Lance Armstrong. He, like them before him, has become the face of American cycling, and, frankly, we could not ask for a better spokesman.

The Tour de France, with this year's race totaling over 2,200 miles, is known around the globe as one of the toughest physical challenges in the sporting world. It is an incredible feat for anyone to finish this grueling, 20-stage race. But that Floyd Landis finished—and that he won—is even more astounding. Landis suffers from osteoporosis of the hip, an ailment so severe he will require hip replacement surgery in the very near future. Yet, in a staggering display of determination and mental toughness, Landis put aside the pain that was, in his words, “bad, it's grinding, it's bone rubbing on bone,” to win the race in convincing fashion.

Landis and his Phonak Hearing Systems team also demonstrated that cycling is a mental challenge as much as a physical one. In spite of the temptation to stay as the frontrunner and in the face of various pundits questioning their strategy, Phonak purposely relinquished the overall lead of the race in the 13th stage, conserving their energy for the late push that ultimately resulted in victory.

In the course of the race, Floyd Landis also proved the wisdom of the oft-quoted adage, “Never give up.” After struggling through the 16th stage, a stage which saw him lose 10 minutes and fall from first to eleventh place, Landis stunned the field and the pundits with what former champion Lemond aptly described as “the best day I've seen in cycling in years . . . maybe ever,” winning the 17th stage by more than 6 minutes and putting himself in prime position to win the race. Landis followed up his epic ride with a strong showing in the final individual time trial, outpacing his closest rival by nearly a minute and a half and regaining the overall lead, a lead he held for the remainder of the race.

Floyd Landis grew up in Farmersville, PA, a small town located about 50 miles to the southeast of Harrisburg. The Landis family was and is a tight-knit, modest group that instilled in Floyd a belief in the merit of working hard. As the story goes, Floyd was often so inundated with chores that the only time he could ride was in the middle of the night—which, of course, he did. Surely, as with so many of us, Floyd Landis's family played an integral role in shaping him into the man he is today and in the successes that he has enjoyed.

Floyd Landis, whom I am proud to call a fellow Pennsylvanian, has proven that with determination and an immense strength of spirit, even the most extreme obstacles can be overcome and success can be attained. He has inspired countless Americans across our Nation, and many more around the world, and I congratulate him on his remarkable achievement.

NOMINATION OF JEROME A. HOLMES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that these letters in support of Jerome Holmes be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JULY 21, 2006.

Hon. JAMES M. INHOFE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR INHOFE: I am writing to encourage the confirmation of the nomination of Jerome A. Holmes to be a United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

As a U.S. District Judge for over 30 years I have known and worked with many federal law clerks, lawyers, district and circuit judges. I have known first hand of their intelligence, skills, judgment, character, temperament and sense of fairness. In every single one of these criteria Mr. Holmes has uniquely excelled. His scholarship and other credentials are well documented so permit me to emphasize one critically important additional one. Mr. Holmes is dedicated completely to the rule of law, the proper role of the judiciary and to applying and interpreting the law without regard to personal views on given issues. I have seen this commitment guide his every professional task, in civil and criminal cases, as a law clerk, prosecutor and civil practitioner. The Senators and the people of the country can be assured that, if confirmed, Jerome Holmes will be a circuit judge of compassion, fairness and a total commitment to the rule of law. Having personally observed these qualities throughout the years, I could not give a higher recommendation.

Respectfully,

RALPH G. THOMPSON.

JULY 24, 2006.

Senator JIM INHOFE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR INHOFE: I write in support of the nomination of Jerome Holmes to be a Judge on the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. In his many years of public service—including over a decade with the Department of Justice—Jerome has earned a reputation for excellence that few can equal. He served as the Deputy Criminal Chief and the lead prosecutor on some of the most important and challenging investigations and cases in this Office. He was recognized by his fellow career prosecutors for his legal talents, fairness, and fine character.

As Assistant United States Attorneys together, I had the opportunity to work closely with Jerome on counterterrorism, public corruption, and civil rights investigations and cases. I observed first-hand his tremendous dedication, legal acumen, judgment, ethics, professionalism, and commitment to equal justice under the law.

I am confident that, as a Judge on the Court of Appeals, he will continue to serve our Nation with great distinction.

If I can provide you any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN C. RICHTER.

CROWE & DUNLEVY,
Oklahoma City, OK, June 14, 2006.

Hon. JAMES M. INHOFE,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR INHOFE: I am writing in support of the nomination of Jerome A. Holmes, Esq. to the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. I have known Jerome by reputation since 1991 when I was working for the Honorable Glenn English (D-OK) and personally since 1993 when I moved back to Oklahoma to begin my legal career.

Jerome is a known leader in a multitude of community activities. He currently serves as a Commissioner on the American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness and Poverty where his local work has translated into national recognition. He also serves as Chairman of the Board for our local City Rescue Mission, a homeless shelter located in Oklahoma City. As a member of the board myself, I can attest to Jerome's devotion to assisting those who are less fortunate and his incredible leadership style culminating in proven results for the homeless of Oklahoma.

Hard work and dedication to his profession are just some of Jerome's hallmarks through which he has earned the respect of his colleagues in the legal profession. He always displays a judicious demeanor and temperament that will serve him and his country well on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. The first person to turn the lights on and the last to turn the lights off at our office, Jerome's unwavering commitment to his chosen profession is evident. I highly recommend Jerome Holmes for confirmation—both personally and professionally—one cannot find a better nominee.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM H. HOCH,
For the Firm.

CROWE & DUNLEVY,
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW,
Oklahoma City, OK, June 14, 2006.

Re Jerome Holmes

Senator JAMES M. INHOFE,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR: I write to support the nomination of Jerome Holmes to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Having served as United States Attorney for the years 2001–2005, I am well acquainted with the very high standards expected in the federal judicial system, and I know that Jerome would be an outstanding addition to the bench.

I have known Jerome for many years in the course of us both practicing law in Oklahoma City. I worked closely with Jerome when we were both Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the early 1990s and observed first hand Jerome's work ethic, professional excellence, and intelligence.

Later when I returned to the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2001, I had the opportunity to work very closely with Jerome again. One of Jerome's strengths is his ability to take on and be successful with the hardest and most complex tasks. For example, he served as Anti-Terrorist Coordinator for the Western District of Oklahoma. He made a success of that position because of his ability to analyze the complex issues involved, his ability to work well with many different government agencies, and his outstanding judgment. He also proved himself to be an outstanding administrator in his service as Deputy Chief of the Criminal Division.