

## RETIREMENT OF MARTY BERMAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate community is losing a longtime and valued employee. After 18 years of loyal and distinguished service, Marty Berman is retiring from the Senate Recording Studio. Marty played an integral part in the television broadcast of the Senate's proceedings and in helping facilitate the audio and video needs of Senators and their staffs.

His service to his country really started 45 years ago. Marty served faithfully, enlisting twice in a military career that began when he was 17 and lasted 6 years from 1961 to 1967. Before leaving the military he was a communications specialist with duty in Vietnam.

Marty brought extensive television experience to his job at SRS. In the private sector he worked at Satellite News Network, CNN, and finally at CBS. His work for Charles Kuralt and CBS Sunday Morning was nominated for an Emmy. A 13-minute-long story he had photographed was aired, which is the television equivalent of a long book.

His career at the recording studio began in 1988 where he quickly came to specialize in audio operations. However, his contributions were not just technical. He also had just the right personal touch with Senators. It isn't always easy to get up in front of TV cameras and lights to speak, even for Senators, but Marty had the ability to put any Senator at ease. When floor directing, he spoke to each Senator easily and with warmth, and they trusted him. He was never intimidated but he was always respectful.

Marty can be a bit feisty, but his bark is much worse than his bite. To those who have gotten to know him, he is warm and caring, too.

Marty ended where he had started, working the Senate television shift. In 18 years he braved many long days and late nights through the Senate's always unpredictable schedule. Throughout his time at the studio, Marty could always be counted on to be at his post. That included his work as chief STV audio operator where for most days during his shift he started up in the audio booth, assuring that the Senators could always be heard in the Chamber and on television.

Marty has two grown sons, Eric and Alex. The two have been the pride of his life and have become responsible and caring adults. His marriage to Darlene has brought him much happiness. Both share the same three hobbies: antique collecting, antique collecting and more antique collecting. Their home is a somewhat cluttered but fascinating museum of American Western and American Indian artifacts, pottery, Big Little Books and just about anything else you can think of. Last but not least, there are four others who hold a place in his heart. They are Hoover the yellow lab, Clarence the basset hound, Crystal the cat, and Birdie the cockatiel. Birdie likes to lie back and

listen to the blues with Marty and Darlene and can even whistle "Bridge on the River Kwai."

Marty's unique personality, loyalty, and dedication will be missed. We all join to wish Marty the best as he begins this next adventure in his life and know he will enjoy the newfound time for family, friends, pets, and antique collecting.

## CARL PERKINS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I rise today to support final passage of S. 250, the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act. This legislation represents a bipartisan effort to enhance and strengthen career and technical education programs across the United States.

In my home State of Nevada, career and technical education programs enjoy strong support. Recently, career and technical educators from across the State came together to come up with common course standards for students that focus on certain career and technical education programs. Nevada also has a Career and Technical Education Plan that links these course standards with the academic requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

I have always supported the Perkins Career and Technical Education Program because I believe that these programs often catch students that slip through the cracks in traditional education programs. Career and technical education programs provide students with real world applications for what they are learning in the classroom. Students in Nevada have the opportunity to work with state-of-the-art technology in their classrooms to learn the skills they need in the workforce. Too often these are students that would have dropped out of school had career and technical education courses not been available.

During the conference committee on this important legislation, I was honored to work with my colleagues to strengthen this legislation. We worked to ensure that career and technical education programs have strong performance indicators that are linked to meet industry standards as well as academic achievement. The tech-prep grant program was maintained as a separate program to encourage continued innovation in career and technical education programs. This legislation also encourages states to develop articulation agreements and sequences of courses, something Nevada has already worked hard to develop. Finally, this legislation recognizes the importance of strong partnerships between high schools and institutions of higher education that support these programs.

During the conference I worked hard to ensure that funding for the Perkins programs continued to flow to fast-growing States. It is vitally important that funding follow students to their

new homes. To that end, we maintained the current hold harmless level at the 1998 level. This allows millions of dollars to move from State to State according to student population counts. As a Senator for one of the fastest growing States in the country, it is my duty to ensure that each of the children in Nevada, whether they were born in Nevada or just recently moved there, are accounted for when Federal funds are allocated to States.

I am pleased that all of my colleagues supported final passage, and look forward to working with career and technical educators in Nevada to implement this important law.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the passage of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006. Perkins, the Federal Government's largest investment in our Nation's high schools, provides critical resources for students pursuing career and technical education at the secondary and postsecondary levels. Although the President has proposed eliminating the program in recent budget requests, Perkins has enjoyed a long history of bipartisan support. More than 11 million students are currently enrolled in some form of career and technical education and I am confident this reauthorization will improve the programs and services available to help them realize their goals.

I am particularly heartened by this bill's heightened focus on individualized student counseling and the use of graduation and career plans. For too many students, high school graduation and postsecondary education seem out of reach. That is why I have introduced my Pathways for All Students to Succeed, PASS, Act. The PASS Act provides assistance for schools to hire and train mathematics and literacy coaches; supports the collection and reporting of accurate graduation rates; and targets funding for struggling schools to implement reforms. It also dedicates resources to increase the number of academic counselors working in schools. Research has shown that providing early high school students with guidance boosts the likelihood that they will graduate with a diploma. Early, individualized planning also helps students obtain the coursework and training they need to achieve their professional aspirations. I applaud the increased focus on individualized student counseling and planning in Perkins, which will reach career and technical education students earlier in their schooling and put them on a track to graduate.

This Perkins reauthorization retains and strengthens the Tech Prep program, which encourages states to design and implement innovative programs that combine secondary and postsecondary activities into a coherent set of courses. In my home State of Washington, it is estimated that workforce training at community and technical colleges increases a student's lifetime earnings by more than \$150,000.

Federal Perkins dollars, matched by States and localities, are precisely the kind of government investment that pays off over a lifetime and I salute the continuation of these important programs.

In addition, I am heartened by several of the major changes we made to update the bill. We strengthened the emphasis on assisting students in preparing for high skill, high wage or high demand occupations, ensuring that we provide our students with skills they need to remain competitive in today's global marketplace. We promoted partnerships among high schools, community colleges, local workforce investment boards, business and industry, with the twin goals of providing students with pathways toward skilled occupations and producing the trained workers that employers need. We promoted professional development opportunities for career and technical education teachers, counselors, and administrators, so that those leading our classrooms and schools remain on the cutting edge of ever-changing workplaces and economy.

I commend this bill for bolstering the reporting requirements for Perkins programs, extending this level of transparency to the local level and requiring disaggregation for important population subgroups, including individuals with disabilities; students from economically disadvantaged families, including foster children; people preparing for nontraditional training and employment; and single parents, including single pregnant women. I am pleased that States now are required to report on student rates of attainment of diplomas and GEDs, as well as annual graduation rates. Valid and reliable data serves both an accountability and diagnostic function, and I am pleased to see that this reauthorization requires states to collect and publicize this information.

I would like to thank Senator KENNEDY, Chairman ENZI, Chairman MCKEON, and Congressman MILLER for their leadership on this bill. I also want to thank Carmel Martin, Jane Oates, J.D. LaRock, Beth Buehlmann, Scott Fleming, Whitney Rhoades, and Denise Forte for their hard work. The time and effort dedicated by members and staff is evident in the quality of the final product and I am pleased to support the reauthorization of the act.

#### VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I have been advised by Chairman SPECTER's staff that the chairman is correcting the RECORD regarding some materials that were inserted last Thursday, July 20, 2006, during debate on reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act. I thank the chairman for correcting the RECORD. Contrary to how it appeared in the RECORD, those materials did not reflect work of the bipartisan staff of the Judiciary Committee.

I understand that the chairman filed a committee report last night on S. 2703, the Senate bill reported by the committee last Wednesday. I have yet to see a copy of that final report, nor is it yet publicly available. Indeed, no draft committee report on S. 2703 was circulated to the committee until July 24, 2006, 5 days after the Judiciary Committee unanimously voted to report it and the chairman had reported it, and four days after the Senate unanimously passed H.R. 9, the bill that President Bush signed into law this morning. That draft report did not contain findings based on the extensive record created in both the House and Senate.

In this highly unusual development, as the report filed should indicate, it does not reflect the views of a majority of the Senate Judiciary Committee. This, in spite of the fact that all members voted to report the bill favorably.

Fortunately, we had the foresight to include legislative findings in the body of the legislation itself. Those findings, based on the record, were adopted by the House and unanimously by the Senate last week. I want to thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER, Ranking Member CONYERS, Congressmen WATT and LEWIS, and all those who worked so hard to assemble and consider that record in the House. Their outstanding work gave us in the Senate a great start, which we supplemented with nine additional hearings. The findings remained the same and were adopted in identical form by both Houses. It is that bill and those findings, based on the extensive record that 18 members of the Judiciary Committee voted to report as part of S. 2703 last Wednesday, July 19 and that 98 Senators voted for in adopting H.R. 9 last Thursday, July 20.

With regard to committee consideration, after nine hearings, the committee held a special business meeting at my request to debate S. 2703 on July 19. At our business meeting, the committee debated and voted on only one substantive amendment, Senator COBURN's amendment related to section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. It was debated and then defeated. Other than an amendment I offered at Senator SALAZAR's suggestion to add the name of César Chávez to the short title, which was adopted, no other amendments were offered. The record is the record. As reported by The Houston Chronicle the next day, Senator CORNYN said: "I decided that any amendments would be defeated, so I decided not to offer any."

As Chairman SPECTER's deadline approached yesterday for filing views to be included in a highly unusual committee report, the Democratic Senators learned that the document the chairman was prepared to sign and file had changed dramatically from the document he had circulated as a draft report on July 24, 2006. As sponsors of the Senate legislation who have supported it pressed for its enactment and

voted for it, we felt compelled to file views registering our disappointment that the views then being circulated did not reflect our views, did not properly reflect the record supporting our bill, and did not fully endorse the bill we introduced, sponsored and that we and all members of the committee voted to report favorably to the Senate. After we filed our views, I understand the report was revised even further to incorporate what had previously been styled as supplemental views into a new and not previously circulated version.

I will ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of the signature page showing that even then only nine Republican members of the committee, less than a majority, endorsed the report.

Of course, at the time of floor debate and consideration of H.R. 9 in the Senate, no Senate committee report on S. 2703 was available to Senators. Fortunately at the time of Senate floor debate and consideration of H.R. 9 in the Senate last week, Senators had available to them an extensive record to inform their votes. We had the voluminous Senate Judiciary Committee record, including thousands of pages of testimony. We had the full record before the House of Representatives, including thousands of pages of testimony. We had the House Committee Report and the full debate on the floor of the House of Representatives, including debate surrounding four substantive amendments to H.R. 9 that were all rejected.

Leading up to final passage of the Voting Rights Act reauthorization, I provided the Senate with some of the extensive evidence received in the Judiciary Committee about the persistence of discriminatory practices in covered jurisdictions that supports reauthorization of this crucial provision. I provided evidence regarding the need for fixes to two Supreme Court decisions to clarify Congress's intent regarding the Voting Rights Act to reinforce the original purpose of the act. I also pointed to evidence supporting the extension of the act's critical bilingual language assistance provisions. I included statements in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from Tuesday and Wednesday and available to all Senators during the course of the debate. I referred to that evidence early in the debate last Thursday.

Most importantly, of course, at the time we voted, all Senators had before them the detailed findings in section 2 of the legislation based on the record and all Senators endorsed those findings with their votes. For example, those findings explicitly include:

"Evidence of continued discrimination includ[ing] . . . the hundreds of objections interposed, requests for more information submitted followed by voting changes withdrawn from consideration by jurisdictions covered by the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and