advocate for Vermont’s waters. He serves on the Lake Champlain Basin Program Steering Committee and as chair of its executive committee, bringing the States of Vermont and New York and the Province of Quebec together to work for a clean, healthy lake. Currently, he serves on the Memphremagog Steering Committee, working with the Province of Quebec to protect and enhance that international water.

Canute received his bachelor’s degrees from Columbia University in New York City and served in the 101st Airborne Division in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He and his wife Diane have two sons, Layton and Canute, He is a longtime resident of Stowe, VT, and is a past president of Stowe Youth Hockey and chair of the Stowe Recreation Commission.

Canute Dalmasse is a tribute to his State, his community, and to protecting Vermont’s natural environment. The State of Vermont, with its celebrated natural beauty and well-deserved reputation for exemplary environmental stewardship, honors Canute’s dedication, devotion, and hard work that helped set the course for Vermont’s future. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize Canute today in the U.S. Senate.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I wish to speak to legislation to fight a discrepancy in access to care that prevents hundreds of our Nation’s heroes from receiving the best possible care for traumatic brain injury.

Traumatic brain injury has been identified as the “signature injury” affecting armed servicemembers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. After sacrificing so much, we have a moral obligation to ensure that these men and women receive the best care available to them. Unfortunately, administrative and medical capacity problems have prevented many of our heroes from receiving the care they desperately need and deserve. There is an immediate solution to address this.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, has made clear progress in research and development of rehabilitation treatment for individuals who have incurred traumatic brain injuries. However, VA medical facilities have not yet reached the level of private rehabilitation facilities, which have been developing cognitive treatment for the past 30 years.

While VA medical centers offer excellent services, there are barriers to receiving the optimal health care options. These include a confusing array of benefits, overworked and undertrained case managers, and, most importantly, a discrepancy between benefits for those on active duty versus those who have retired. This discrepancy in benefits leads to confusion among families who are forced to try to determine what is in the best interest of the servicemember, often without having full knowledge of the difference in benefits offered to Active Duty and veterans. Currently, the TRICARE plan that is available to Active Duty servicemembers permits them to receive coverage for cognitive therapy obtained in private non-military facilities. However, medical retirees do not have this health care coverage option. Consequently, severely injured TBI patients struggle to obtain the critical care they desperately need.

Further, while many armed servicemembers have dedicated family members and loved ones who fight to ensure that they receive the best care possible, not all servicemembers have family to speak and act on their behalf. Thus, many are left without optimal treatment and without an advocate.

The need to ensure that every TBI patient receives the best care possible cannot be understated. This is an immediate solution. We have the ability to provide a crucial, temporary answer to our armed services members while the VA develops the capability to facilitate care for this unique population. We can not stand idly by, as hundreds of our bravest Americans are prevented from receiving the care they deserve.

HONORING PASTOR RHIO CLEIGH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I take a few minutes to honor a great man of faith. Pastor Rhio Cleigh dedicated the past 25 years to serving his community through the church. The last 15 of those years have been at my home church—Prairie Lakes Church in Cedar Falls, IA.

The work of a pastor is not always easy but, much like my work, it is very rewarding. As a minister in our church, Rhio was responsible for counseling individuals and families, visiting the sick in the hospital, and ministering to the senior citizens of our congregation.

This Sunday our membership will honor Pastor Cleigh as he retires from the ministry. Rhio plans to spend his retirement enjoying time with his wife Patti, his 6 children, 10 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. He also hopes to have a little more time for some of his hobbies—things like woodworking, camping, fishing, and gardening.

Barbara joins me in sincere appreciation to Rhio for his contributions to our church and community. Together we wish him a long and happy retirement.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AGENDA

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a sense-of-the-Congress amendment my good friend and colleague Senator INHOFE has just submitted regarding Presidential authority over setting American foreign policy. Like all of my colleagues, I have the right to visit foreign countries in my capacity as a Member of Congress. However, the Constitution is quite clear about the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches of our government, and the executive branch has the exclusive authority to conduct negotiations with foreign countries.

As we all know, the Logan Act prohibits American citizens from negotiating with foreign governments without the authority of the United States. What would it mean if a Member of the House or Senate, and especially a member of the leadership, was to visit a foreign country and in discussions with their government, explicitly speak out against our Nation’s foreign values or interests? Would it mean that Members of Congress, believe, are seen by foreign governments as carrying an official message of foreign policy, and if such members contradict the administration, it can be very damaging to our country politically and diplomatically.

Members of Congress have the ability to express their dissent from the floor of their respective Chambers, but under no circumstances should Members visit foreign countries with a sole purpose of demonstrating their opposition to the administration’s foreign policy. Such actions would show a sincere lack of respect for the boundaries drawn out by our Constitution, and I would hope that all Members of Congress will use good judgment when visiting with foreign governments in the future.

It is a very dangerous precedent to set if Members of Congress decide to buck the Administration agenda and carry mixed messages to foreign governments, especially foreign governments hostile to our country. While I will continue to support congressional rights to travel abroad and meet with foreign governments, there is a responsibility that comes along with those visits, and that responsibility is to uphold and support the administration’s foreign policy agenda.

For this reason I have joined my colleague Senator INHOFE in submitting this amendment. I believe it sends a clear and strong message that Members of Congress have the responsibility to defer to and support the administration on setting our Nation’s foreign policy agenda, and under no circumstances should Members blantly defy our administration for purely political gain.

REAL ID ACT

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today my home State of Montana becomes the fourth State in the Nation to declare its opposition to the REAL ID Act by enacting binding legislation that opts Montana out of REAL ID. With it, my State is opting out of the onerous regulation, blatant invasion of privacy, and the high cost of compliance that will come from implementing REAL ID.

I congratulate my Governor, Brian Schweitzer, and both houses of the
PAYOLA SETTLEMENT

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I would like to briefly comment on an important settlement that has been recently announced by the Federal Communications Commission, FCC.

Four major radio station groups, Clear Channel, Entercom, Citadel, and CBS Radio, have taken an important first step in cleaning up the radio industry through today’s consent decree with the FCC and side agreement with the independent music community on airplay and rules of engagement. I want to especially commend Commissioner Adelstein for his tireless work to bring these groups together and then-Attorney General Spitzer for spearheading the initial investigation that has led to State and now Federal settlements.

I was encouraged to see internal business reforms, increased recordkeeping for transactions between labels and radio stations and unrestricted access to these records by the FCC as part of the consent decrees. While these provisions are not as broad as those included in my previous payola legislation, the increased recordkeeping and disclosure in the consent decrees represent a step in the right direction. Transparency and accountability through sustained oversight will go a long way in eliminating the pervasive shadowy practices that have plagued the radio industry on and off almost since its inception.

While the consent decrees do not directly admit wrongdoing, the payment of $12.5 million to the U.S. Treasury from the four station groups is an implicit acknowledgement that the evidence provided by then-Attorney General Eliot Spitzer showed that significant abuses had taken place. From all accounts, the stations also deserve some credit for working in good faith with the FCC and the independent music community to work towards a solution that is more than just putting this matter behind them. The internal reforms and side agreement negotiated with the American Association of Independent Music, A2IM, appear to show a real desire to change and include the voices of local, unsigned and independent musicians that have unfortunately been missing more often than not from our public airwaves over the past decade or more.

I am pleased by the voluntary side agreement entered into by the radio station groups to provide more airtime and fair rules of engagement. These rules of engagement require nondiscriminatory treatment for labels and musicians seeking to be played at the stations and echo requirements from my previous payola legislation. I am heartened that these major radio station groups have apparently come to the realization that the old system wasn’t working and that it was in their best interest to make it easier for small local musicians to be heard. With more and more musicians being successful without or with limited radio airplay—just look at the commercial and critical success of the Dixie Chicks’ last album—I hope radio stations are realizing they must change and play what their potential listeners want to hear in order to remain relevant. I hope this important commitment by four station groups will be replicated throughout the rest of the radio industry.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a posting by someone under the name “Blue Bunting” made to the Care2 News Network be printed in the RECORD. This posting is a supplement to a speech I gave last Thursday, April 12, on attempts by some Democrats pushing the largest tax increase in U.S. history amid massive national inattention.

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