degree in German studies in 1993 and a master’s degree in German linguistics in 1998. Additionally, he was a Fulbright Scholar at Christian-Albrechts-University in Kiel, Germany, in 1993 and worked as an academic technology liaison at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

It is clear that Jamie Bishop touched many lives with his personality, his sense of humor, his numerous talents, his passion for teaching, and his love of scientific art. In fact, those who were his passion for teaching, and his love of scientific art. In fact, those who were

HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE FROM YORK AND MANY OTHER AREAS OF NEBRASKA AND SURROUNDING STATES, PEOPLE WHO NEVER EVEN KNEW A YOUNG COLLEGE STUDENT NAMED ADAM MCSWEEN, CAME TO HIS FUNERAL TO Pay their respects. The day was sunny, and they told me he hadn’t been to the school for a while. But the admissions officer still remembered his name. He said, “This is Adam.” The Admissions Officer said “Adam McSween?” He couldn’t believe it. I couldn’t believe it. I think it speaks volumes for the people of York.

In addition to his wife and two daughters, Petty Officer McSween is survived by his parents Bob and Florence McSween; his two brothers Robert and Kyle; and his sister Angela. I offer my sincere condolences to the family and friends of Petty Officer McSween. He made the ultimate and courageous sacrifice for our Nation. I join all Americans in grieving the loss of this remarkable young man and know that Petty Officer McSween’s passion for serving, his leadership, and his selflessness will remain a source of inspiration for us all.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, the Brady law requires prospective gun purchasers to undergo a criminal background check before they are able to obtain a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer. It was created to prevent felons, fugitives, domestic abusers, and other prohibited persons from gaining access to guns. However, there are significant holes in this legislation that permit exploitation by those who wish to avoid criminal background checks and still obtain guns.

Under the Bush administration, how-
Congress cannot accept any more losses as a foregone conclusion. This vital sector continues to face tremendous challenges—taking on a significant level of domestic costs that foreign competitors do not, including labor, health care, fuel costs, and the regulatory and tax burden. Sadly, as a result, many manufacturers are forced to close their doors or outsource abroad.

The reality is, the manufacturing sector, more than any other sector, drives America’s economy—with manufacturers responsible for more than 70 percent of private sector research and manufacturing goods making up over 60 percent of U.S. exports. There is no coincidence that this is a value added industry.

I believe that we can and must fight for our Nation’s manufacturers especially when you consider the manufacturing industries pay wages that are about one-third higher than average wages. And that is all the more true for small businesses when they have resources available that have proven their value, including the SBA which has helped to create or retain over 5.3 million jobs since 1999. And just last year, the manufacturing extension partnerships, or MEP’s, services helped to create and retain over 35,000 jobs and increase revenue by $6.25 billion. We must work hand-in-glove with Small Business Administration, SBA, and MEP to bolster our manufacturing base and ensure that resources are available to those who wanted to either maintain, grow, or start small businesses.

That is why I introduced an amendment today to the America COMPETES Act that clarifies the MEP’s, services helped to create and retain over 35,000 jobs and increase revenue by $6.25 billion. We must work hand-in-glove with Small Business Administration, SBA, and MEP to bolster our manufacturing base and ensure that resources are available to those who wanted to either maintain, grow, or start small businesses.

This week, I have already discussed the importance of small businesses as set forth for the Hollings Manufacturing Partnership Program. By teaming with such organizations, as encouraged by the original statute, the centers can and do leverage their Federal investment in manufacturing and the resources necessary for the successful operation of American manufacturers. With the right resources, many more small manufacturers will be eligible to use this program to help grow their businesses.

We cannot ignore the effect that countries like China are having on our Nation’s manufacturers. In order to compete fairly in this increasingly competitive global market we must ensure that currencies are not strategically manipulated. That is why I will continue to work with the President and those in Congress to ensure that our Nation gets tough on China on those important issues.

The bottom line is, our country’s future will be built by today’s small businesses. The faster we strengthen and sustain our Nation’s small manufacturers, the more quickly America’s economy will grow.

SMALL BUSINESS VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY

Mr. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I offer a few remarks regarding National Small Business Week. President Bush designated for April 22-28, 2007. As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, one of my top priorities is to champion our Nation’s small businesses and to promote their needs and concerns. Our top job creators deserve nothing less.

This week, I have already discussed how Congress must solve the small business health insurance crisis and bolster small business as set forth for the Hollings Manufacturing Partnership Program. By teaming with such organizations, as encouraged by the original statute, the centers can and do leverage their Federal investment in manufacturing and the resources necessary for the successful operation of American manufacturers. With the right resources, many more small manufacturers will be eligible to use this program to help grow their businesses.

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