

meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth." In my humble estimation, the fate of Africa depends, in large part, on the education of young men and women who learn to lead their communities with wisdom and integrity.

I am filled with hope when I see individuals and communities coming together to respond to perhaps one of the greatest crises of our time, and I am encouraged when such initiatives emerge from transcontinental friendships. I believe the United Orphanage and Academy embodies the values and provides the tools necessary to equip Africa's youth to embrace a world of challenges and possibilities.

#### LIFTING HOLD ON NOMINATION OF DENNIS SCHRADER

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on June 18, I announced my intention to object to any unanimous consent request for the Senate to take up the nomination of Dennis Schrader to be Deputy Administrator for National Preparedness in the Department of Homeland Security. I did so because, prior to his confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Michael Chertoff told me in my office that if confirmed, he would move expeditiously to implement the National Emergency Technology Guard—NET Guard program. Unfortunately, Secretary Chertoff had failed to honor that pledge.

Today, I received a letter from Secretary Chertoff describing how the Department is moving forward with 12-month NET Guard pilots beginning in September 2007, and how the DHS will be requesting funds to continue the program in its 2009 budget request to the Office of Management and Budget.

The Secretary also communicated to me that the Department of Homeland Security will be publicizing NET Guard and seeking involvement from the private sector, a step critical to the success of this vital program.

The Department has also set aside funds to run the pilots for the year and convened a working group of subject matter experts to guide the design of NET Guard. These activities and Secretary Chertoff's letter indicate that he is making a good-faith effort to get NET Guard off the ground.

In light of these actions, I will no longer object to any unanimous-consent request for the Senate to take up Mr. Schrader's nomination. I will, however, continue to closely monitor DHS's actions on NET Guard.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of Secretary Chertoff's letter be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

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

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY,  
Washington, DC, August 1, 2007.

Hon. RON WYDEN,  
U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR WYDEN: Thank you for taking time this morning to discuss the Department of Homeland Security's plans for the National Emergency Technology Guard (NET Guard) program. Following my June 29, 2007 letter to you that outlined our program approach, and as a prelude to our discussion, members of the Department's NET Guard team briefed your staff on our proposed plan. The positive feedback from your staff, coupled with your positive feedback this morning and the positive feedback that we have received from State, local, and private sector stakeholders, gives us confidence that we are taking the right approach to implementing this important disaster response program.

Accordingly, the Department is moving forward with plans to implement 12-month NET Guard pilots beginning in September 2007. The recommendation to establish pilots in September is consistent with the NET Guard Scoping Initiative Report, which I will provide to you upon its completion this month. To fund our efforts in fiscal years 2007 and 2008, we will continue to work with Congressional appropriators. I will also submit a request to the White House Office of Management and Budget to fund the NET Guard program in fiscal year 2009. On these and other program matters, the Department's Office of Legislative Affairs will keep your staff apprised of our progress.

I appreciate your interest and support of the Department's disaster response mission and look forward to working with you on this and other issues.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL CHERTOFF.

#### INTERNET GAMBLING

Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, I would like to share a letter received by our colleagues in the House of Representatives on the issue of Internet gambling from the National Football League, Major League Baseball, National Basketball Association, National Hockey League, and National Collegiate Athletic Association. I would like to include this letter in the RECORD, which alerts us to the serious threat that H.R. 2046 poses to the integrity of American athletics, as well as our national sovereignty over gambling regulation.

Many of us on this side of the Capitol may not be aware that there are efforts afoot in the House of Representatives to legalize Internet gambling, less than a year after we enacted the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006. I strongly supported UIGEA, and supported its inclusion in the SAFE Ports Act, so that after more than 10 years of overwhelming bipartisan support for doing something to stop illegal Internet gambling in this country, we finally have an enforcement law with teeth.

But now, before the regulations for UIGEA have even been written, international gambling interests are telling our colleagues in the House that Internet gambling can never be stopped, so we might as well legalize, regulate, and tax it. We might as well decide that ev-

eryone speeds on the George Washington Parkway, so we should just eliminate the speed limits and make it a toll road. Internet gambling is just as dangerous—its 24/7 accessibility from any location, speed, and anonymity make it the "crack cocaine" of gambling, leading to addiction, young people wrecking their financial futures, family breakdown, and even crime and suicide. The answer is stepping up enforcement efforts, not abandoning the law and government feeding off the trough of personal tragedy.

H.R. 2046 would license Internet gambling companies to do business with U.S. customers and override every other Federal or State law that would interfere with this business. The proponents of this legalization scheme will argue that the bill allows States and sports leagues to "opt out" of legalization, but don't be fooled. The "opt-outs" are vulnerable to legal challenge, both in U.S. courts and in the World Trade Organization. And if the opt-outs fall, H.R. 2046 would result in the greatest expansion of gambling ever enacted in the history of the United States.

The sports organizations are very concerned because H.R. 2046 would reverse decades of Federal policy by endorsing sports gambling. We have all seen in the past couple of weeks how damaging gambling can be to the integrity and image of professional sports. When a player or a referee taints the game for gambling profits, all of the participants and all of the fans are betrayed. And even when there is no fraud, pervasive gambling on a sport robs its character as family entertainment celebrating the pursuit of athletic achievement, turning it into a seedy vehicle for making money at the expense of others. Congress must not in any way endorse this degradation of our national pastimes.

I hope that my colleagues here in the Senate will join me on the lookout for Internet gambling legalization efforts and will firmly reject and rebuff any such proposals.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the letter prepared by the professional and collegiate sports associations.

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

JULY 30, 2007.

DEAR MEMBER OF CONGRESS: Sports betting is incompatible with preserving the integrity of American athletics. For many decades, we have actively enforced strong policies against sports betting. And the law on this point is consistent. Federal statutes bar sports betting, especially the 1961 Wire Act and the 1992 Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act. Enforcement of these laws against sports betting was also a significant motive for enacting the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006 (UIGEA).

Accordingly, we urge you to reject current proposals to legalize Internet gambling, such as H.R. 2046 sponsored by Rep. Barney Frank. This legislation reverses federal policy on sports betting and would for the first time