

setting arbitrary time lines for troop withdrawal or dictating specific measures in progress, I don't support that approach with this administration either. Still, I will continue working with this administration to bring specific progress measures or benchmarks out into the public eye.

Last week I wrote a letter to Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman INOUE and Ranking Member COCHRAN urging them to include a requirement for progress measurements in the fiscal year 2009 supplemental appropriations bill. I was pleased to learn today that the committee markup of the supplemental bill we are scheduled to take up tomorrow does include the two elements I have sought. I understand that the bill will require the President to submit an initial report to Congress this year and subsequent reports to assess whether the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan are doing enough toward continuing the President's new strategy. In short, are they doing their part?

The bill also outlines general areas to measure the success of that strategy or what I refer to as benchmarks. Timely and regular status reports will enable the American people to gain an understanding of whether the strategy is working or should be altered. In fact, it will be transparent.

I look forward to the administration defining more clearly the progress measures to evaluate that strategy and to them becoming public. We all want the mission of the United States in Afghanistan and Pakistan to succeed. The more we know about whether we are achieving goals tied to the mission, the more Congress and the American public will be able to support our military, economic, and diplomatic efforts going forward. For too long our standards to measure success in Iraq were vaguely defined. That led to the partisan disputes over U.S. strategy and uncertainty in the minds of the American public. The controversies didn't provide American servicemembers fighting the war with the unity of purpose and support they deserve. Now in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the American people should receive a clear explanation of the mission, an objective set of measures by which to evaluate it going forward, and regular status reports on the mission's progress.

As the Federal Government asks for further sacrifice from our citizens and as we are forced to continue putting our men and women in uniform in harm's way, Congress must provide all available tools to achieve success. We should provide nothing less.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BENNET). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARTIN SINNOTT

Mr. DURBIN. I rise today to congratulate Martin Sinnott on his retirement as president and CEO of Kids Hope United. Throughout his career, Marty served Illinois' children and families, first at the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, then The Youth Campus, and finally Kids Hope United. After 30 years of success in the nonprofit social services, Mr. Sinnott is ready for a change of pace.

Marty Sinnott is a native Chicagoan. He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Chicago. His first job after college was with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. There, he started as a social worker and over the course of ten years rose to become administrator of resource development and utilization.

After Marty left DCFCS, he continued his work on behalf of needy Illinois children as president and CEO of The Youth Campus, a child welfare agency in Chicago. During his tenure at The Youth Campus, he increased the organization's revenues from \$1 million to \$13 million. And more importantly, he led the organization's growth so it was serving six times as many kids.

Since 1999, Marty has been with Kids Hope United, a Chicago-based private nonprofit child and family services agency. As chairman and CEO, Mr. Sinnott led a multistate expansion that tripled revenues and, again, increased the number of children and families the agency reached. Kids Hope United now has a 900-person staff, an annual operating budget of \$55 million, and a scope of services that reaches families in Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Florida.

I commend Marty Sinnott for his decades of service to the children and families of Illinois. Congratulations go out to him and his family on his retirement from Kids Hope United. We wish you many years of continued success.

#### DEPARTURE OF GREECE'S AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, through my duties in the Senate I have an opportunity to work with many foreign ambassadors to the United States. I rise today to mention the contributions of one ambassador who is leaving Washington and returning to Athens, Greece, to serve his country at the Foreign Ministry: Ambassador Alexandros Mallias.

Ambassador Mallias worked hard to represent Greece and its historic cul-

ture—shared by three million Americans of Greek descent—to the United States and our Government. While the U.S. and Greece are strategic partners, working in concert on a host of issues from Afghanistan to anti-piracy operations, our shared values transcend our interests, and we hold in common a longstanding respect for democracy and freedom, whether in Boston or in Athens.

During his tenure, Ambassador Mallias was particularly active with Congress, and held many presentations and briefings for Senators, Members of Congress and their staffs. I especially appreciate his efforts in helping make the recent visit of Greece's Foreign Minister, Dora Bakoyannis, whom I had the pleasure to host at a Working Coffee of the Foreign Relations Committee, so productive. The Ambassador was also involved with think tanks, advocacy groups, grassroots organizations and universities, traveling widely in the U.S. to engage civic leaders, Greek Americans, students and other people on important bilateral issues. His work with Jewish and African American communities was also significant, earning him numerous commendations, including a Martin Luther King Award.

Many of us in Congress will miss his fine work and I wish him the very best.

#### TRAVEL PROMOTION ACT OF 2009

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced, with Senators ENSIGN, INOUE, MARTINEZ, KLOBUCHAR, and others, the Travel Promotion Act of 2009. We seek with this bill to increase travel to the U.S. and rebuild the country's place in the global travel market. After 9/11, the number of overseas travelers to the U.S. decreased dramatically and has still not recovered. In addition, the current U.S. economic downturn has caused many American families to cut back on vacation plans and our travel industry is struggling.

Travel and tourism are a crucial part of our economy. Travel expenditures in the U.S. are estimated to be \$775.9 billion for 2008. Yet other countries have gained market share to our detriment. Foreign travelers are going elsewhere.

The absence of Federal leadership in travel promotion has resulted in States having to step in to fill that void. An example is the effort made by my home State of North Dakota, where tourism is the State's second largest industry. Research by North Dakota State University found that in 2007 out-of-State visitors spent \$3.96 billion in North Dakota. The investment that North Dakota made to encourage travel and tourism has reaped enormous benefits. But we can only imagine how many tourists would enjoy each of our States if we did not just leave the promotion to the States, but made that investment as a Country.

The lack of a coordinated Federal campaign creates a comparative disadvantage with countries that have