

territories from the FEMA Region IX office in California and Region X office in Washington State. Supplies for any recovery effort in the Pacific are prepositioned in Hawaii at FEMA's Pacific Area Office warehouse, as well as in Guam and American Samoa. I worked to establish and maintain the FEMA Pacific Area Office headquartered in Honolulu in order to protect our isolated island communities. The office has been essential for preparedness efforts in Hawaii and critical for disaster response throughout the Pacific region.

Equally important, the actions of State and local officials and the people of Hawaii have demonstrated the value of citizen and community preparedness. Thanks to the efforts of the people of Hawaii, we were prepared to save lives and avert considerable damage had a large tsunami come ashore. Around 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, tsunami warning sirens sounded in Hawaii, which notified people to evacuate the low-lying areas. The people of Hawaii followed the directions of our local authorities, stayed calm, and evacuated all shorelines.

Hawaii is familiar with the destructive power of tsunamis. In 1960, a 9.5 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Chile generated a tsunami that killed over 60 people in Hawaii. More recently, Hawaii faced a disaster of a different kind, in 1992, when Hurricane Iniki caused billions of dollars in damage.

The Chilean earthquake reminded us that when a disaster occurs, we need to be prepared. Because Hawaii is isolated from the rest of the United States, it is even more critical that we are prepared to take care of ourselves. I want to congratulate the people of Hawaii, as well as Federal, State, and local authorities who successfully prepared for and responded to the tsunami.

While I am thankful for the tsunami's minimal impact on my home State, we cannot forget the tragedy in Chile. My thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by the earthquake.

SATELLITE TELEVISION EXTENSION AND LOCALISM ACT OF 2010

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to urge passage of the Satellite Television Extension and Localism Act of 2010, or STELA, as part of the American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act of 2010.

Over the past 15 years, satellite television has grown into a strong competitor to cable by offering consumers in rural as well as urban markets a choice in pay television providers. Where residents once were limited to a single cable operator, satellite providers now offer most consumers an alternative. This has led to price and service competition, which is good for consumers. Congress supported such competition through the passage of the Satellite Home Viewer Act and its progeny, in-

cluding the Satellite Home Viewer Extension and Reauthorization Act, or SHVERA. And now Congress has the same opportunity with passage of STELA, which reauthorizes and extends certain communications and copyright provisions.

A decade ago, Congress, recognizing that consumers want access to local news, weather, and community-oriented programming, established a mechanism by which satellite providers could offer local broadcast stations to residents in the local market. This means that when a satellite subscriber in Huntington, West Virginia tunes-in to CBS, PBS, ABC, FOX or NBC, they hear about events in the state capital and see the successes and trials of their neighbors—not the weather in Manhattan.

Recognizing the limits of satellite providers at the time, Congress did not require the companies to offer local channels to every market in the country. Over time, this has created a division between haves and have-nots in which satellite companies are not providing local channels to residents in the smallest markets.

In West Virginia, satellite subscribers in the Parkersburg and Wheeling markets cannot receive local channels from either satellite provider. In certain other markets in the State, only one provider offers local channels. Rural consumers deserve better.

That is why I am particularly pleased that STELA provides incentives to provide local service into all 210 markets across the county, which sets the stage for consumers in even the most rural regions to gain access to local news, sports, and community programming.

Another important provision of STELA changes existing law to promote the carriage of high-definition local public broadcasting stations and to make it easier for statewide public television networks, like that in West Virginia and 14 other States, to reach every resident of the States they serve.

As some broadcast television has become coarser and less informative, the importance of the mission and programming provided by public television has grown. STELA makes sure that more satellite subscribers will have access to the compelling programming available on public television.

Passage of STELA provides us with the opportunity to encourage greater competition and access to quality programming to consumers throughout the nation. For this reason, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important legislation.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, as we move closer than ever to enacting legislation that delivers on the promise of secure and affordable health care across America, it is important to remember what is at stake and whom we are fighting for.

Over the last year, I have told many of my colleagues about the Bord family

of West Virginia and their son Samuel who suffered from leukemia.

Stories like the Bords' are a reminder that our work in Congress has a profound and personal impact on millions of lives every day. Each of us brings to this critical work the shared tragic and trying personal experiences of our friends and neighbors back home. They are real: These stories are a picture of people's lives and their pain. And we have an obligation to honor those struggles and sacrifices by working to make things better for everyone. Yet recently, radio host Rush Limbaugh sneered at the Bords' experience, describing it and other stories highlighted during last week's bipartisan health care summit as "sob stories." Always the cynic, he dismissed them entirely, "Can you believe these stories happen in America?" These stories do happen in America—every day. And it is a shame that anyone could hear of this heartbreak and fail to recognize what it says so clearly about the terrible burden our failed health care policies have placed on countless families across this country.

Rich and Amy Bord of Fairmont, WV, are two dedicated schoolteachers with health insurance through their employer. Let me repeat that: They have health insurance. Their 9-year-old son, Samuel, suffered from leukemia, and he needed significant invasive medical therapy. They thought they were covered, only to learn that their policy had a million-dollar lifetime cap. A million dollars sounds like a lot of money—and it is—they surely never would have expected to exceed it. But health care costs are spiraling out of control and the reality is, health insurance companies don't want to cover sick people.

In addition to Samuel, the Bords have two young twin sons at home, and the entire family's health care decisions were impacted by Samuel's bills.

After multiple rounds of chemotherapy and a relapse that required additional treatment for Samuel, the Bords reached their insurance fund's cap. Even with the help of my office and from the Public Employees Insurance Agency to get supplemental coverage for the Bords, Samuel still needed surgery and lots of additional care. Soon they would be approaching the next cap on their supplemental coverage. So the Bords were left with only heart-wrenching suggestions—consider getting a divorce so that Samuel would qualify for Medicaid or stop taking their other children to the doctor altogether, even if they get sick, in order to save every penny for Samuel. That is right. Get a divorce or choose one child's health care needs over another's. Those are the suggestions our Nation offered to these caring, hard-working parents with a sick child?

They did everything in their power to save Samuel, but this fall, he passed away—and there are simply no words to ease his family's loss and pain.

I understand that, to many, circumstances like these may seem rare.