

the debt ceiling is not increased in time. That would be the prudent thing to do. That would be the responsible thing to do.

So, today, I am calling on President Obama to begin planning ahead so that failure to raise the debt ceiling does not immediately turn into a totally unnecessary crisis.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

##### WOMEN VETERANS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to salute the women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and honor the sacrifices they have made for our country.

Long before they were welcomed as members of the military, women played an important role in supporting our troops. Since the American Revolution, women have tended to the wounded and provided care to our soldiers. In the early 20th century, women answered the ultimate call to duty and began to serve proudly in our Armed Forces.

These early women veterans were trailblazers, creating new opportunities for the women that follow in their footsteps. They gave all that they could to protect and defend our country, often without the same recognition given to their male counterparts. Today, women serve at all levels of the armed services as combat pilots, medical care professionals, engineers, and police officers.

There are over 1.8 million women veterans in the United States and the role of women in the armed services continues to grow. Over 212,000 women have served actively in Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 120 women soldiers have sacrificed their lives and many more have been wounded. These women have played an integral role in our military's success, working closely with ground combat troops.

Women have been and continue to be a vital part of the military. Their bravery and patriotism is without question. Their contributions demand recognition. We must pay tribute to those women veterans who answered the call to defend America.

On behalf of myself, and speaking for the thousands of women who have benefited from their example, I would like to recognize and thank the women who have served our country, proudly and with honor.

#### FOR-PROFIT EDUCATION COMPANIES

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, during my floor speech last Thursday on for-profit education, I neglected to insert a letter into the RECORD. I ask unanimous consent that the following letter from Apollo Education Group be printed in the RECORD.

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

#### APOLLO GROUP, INC. STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

Apollo Group, Inc. respectfully submits this response to the statement delivered today by Senator Tom Harkin on the issue of military educational benefits.

During this statement, Senator Harkin cited a complaint submitted by a student at the University of Phoenix in April 2009. As part of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pension's investigation into for-profit higher education, Apollo Group voluntarily produced this complaint and the documents relating to its resolution, along with tens of thousands of pages of additional documents on a wide range of subjects. Apollo Group remains committed to cooperating with the Committee's investigation.

University of Phoenix is the largest private university in North America, serving a current population of over 400,000 students. As with any institution of higher learning, the University receives complaints from its students. It takes those complaints very seriously and works hard to investigate and address students' concerns in a timely, efficient, and appropriate manner. The University's Office of Dispute Resolution administers an industry-leading dispute resolution process to investigate and resolve complaints like the one referenced by Senator Harkin.

Notwithstanding the charges cited by Senator Harkin, it is important to consider the facts of this particular complaint and how it was investigated and resolved by the Office of Dispute Resolution. Specifically, the documents reveal that this student was dissatisfied because he or she did not receive a degree one year after enrollment. After diligent inquiry, the Office determined that the student's grievance stemmed from the University's denial of the student's request to waive certain curriculum requirements based on credits received from another institution fourteen (14) years earlier. That denial was based on a determination that those prior credits were outdated and not equivalent to the credits required as part of the applicable curriculum at the University. The Office did not find any evidence that the student had been promised that he or she would complete the degree program within one year, as the student alleged. Further investigation has determined that the student did complete the degree program at the University, based on educational coursework that met current academic standards, and received a degree within a year after filing the complaint and within two years of entering University of Phoenix.

Senator Harkin pointed out that the student who filed this complaint is a veteran who attended University of Phoenix on the GI Bill. The University is committed to serving the needs of its military and veteran students and believes that it provides an accessible and flexible option for this segment of its student population. The University has long served military students, resulting in its recognition as a military friendly school by GI Jobs, civilianjobs.com, and, most recently, Military Advanced Education in their Third Annual Guide to America's Top Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities.

University of Phoenix's service of military students is driven by its mission to provide access to higher education for historically underserved populations. The University takes this mission extremely seriously and strives continually to improve the experience and opportunities for the many thousands of students who have put their trust in it. The University's industry-leading dispute resolution process is a critical component of its efforts in this regard and demonstrates

the University's commitment to the needs and concerns of its student body.

#### TRIBUTE TO HAL DAVID

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate Hal David on his upcoming 90th birthday. Hal is a pioneer in the music industry and a world class lyricist, having composed some of the most enduring songs in American popular music. Marcelle and I spend many wonderful evenings with him and so enjoy hearing his stories of not only his song writing, but others.

Hal was born on May 25, 1921, in Brooklyn, NY, and was the son of two immigrants. He served in the U.S. Army Entertainment Section in the Central Pacific during World War II with Carl Reiner and Werner Klemperer. The dedication to his country and the entertainment he provided for the men serving will never be forgotten.

Hal's musical writing career took off with his first hit record "The Four Winds and the Seven Seas." His legendary collaboration with composer Burt Bacharach began in 1957 with the Marty Robbins hit "The Story of My Life" and included other hits such as "Magic Moments" and "What the World Needs Now is Love." Through this successful partnership, Hal and Burt Bacharach were nominated for four Academy Awards and won the Oscar for best song in the 1969 film "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid" with "Raindrops."

Hal David also works on legislative efforts as a board member on the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, ASCAP, and led the battle against source licensing. During Hal's time as chairman and CEO of the Songwriters Hall of Fame, he helped launch the Songwriters Hall of Fame Gallery at the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles.

Hal's achievements have earned recognition on a local and international stage. He has been inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and the Songwriter Hall of Fame, which honors the most popular songs from around the world. He was also the first non-British award recipient to receive the Recording Academy and Ivor Novello Award bestowed by the British Performing Rights Society. I commend him on his impressive lyricist career that has entertained countless Americans and citizens around the world. Hal David is a dedicated and talented lyricist and friend, and I am pleased to join in wishing him a happy 90th birthday and all the best in his future endeavors.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO REUBEN SALTERS

• Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator CHRIS COONS, Congressman JOHN CARNEY and myself, I pay