

computer science and informatics programs in the country, will host high school students and expose them to the multitude of academic and professional opportunities in computer science. At Emmaus High School in Emmaus, young people will demonstrate programmable robots and hear from alumni who have successfully pursued careers in computer science, all while honoring computing pioneer Grace Hopper with a birthday cake. Even the White House is celebrating Computer Science Education Week by honoring the week's organizers and representatives of the Computer Science Teachers Association as "Champions of Change."

I have introduced S. 1614, the Computer Science Education Act, to help students develop the skills to compete for the growing number of jobs in computer science. Our Nation's economy and security depend upon computing professionals, but the current pipeline of graduates will satisfy only 52 percent of the more than 1.4 million computing job openings expected by 2018. The other 48 percent of these jobs will either go unfilled or move to other countries. America should continue to lead in the high-tech sector by preparing students to take these well-paying jobs. This legislation would strengthen computer science education in elementary and high schools by ensuring that students not only use technology but also learn the technical skills needed to work in computer science and grow our economy.

Computer Science Education Week will help to increase the interest of students who will invent the next mobile technology or start the next technology company. This week was established in 2009 by the Computing in the Core Coalition, a group of organizations, companies, and scientific societies that strive to advocate for computer science as a core academic subject. Computer Science Education Week coincides with the birthday of Grace Murray Hopper, a pioneer in computer science, who was born on December 9, 1906. She rose to the rank of rear admiral in the U.S. Navy, engineered new programming languages and developed standards for computer systems that laid the foundation for many computer science advances.

The economy of the future and the jobs that will accompany it demand that we prepare our students to remain competitive as leaders in the high-tech global marketplace. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Computer Science Education Week and to cosponsor the Computer Science Education Act.

HOOPER POWER ALLOCATION ACT

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the importance of the Hoover Power Allocation Act of 2011, of which I am a cosponsor.

This legislation passed the Congress after a multiyear effort led by Senator HARRY REID, the bill's lead author, and I thank him for his work.

Upon enactment, Californians will be able to continue buying Hoover Dam's power at the cost of production for the next 50 years.

The legislation allows the people of southern California whose local governments and utilities signed the 50-year contracts that made building Hoover Dam possible to receive 56 percent of the energy produced by the dam for another five decades.

For the people of my State, the Hoover Dam has been a consistent supply of affordable, pollution-free power for decades. The Hoover Dam is one of the largest power plants in the United States, with a capacity of 2,080 megawatts approximately the size of each of California's nuclear powerplants.

Its average production between 1999 and 2008 was about 4.2 billion kilowatt-hours per year, approximately 2.4 billion kilowatt hours of which goes to southern Californians who buy their power from Southern California Edison, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, or members of the Southern California Public Power Agency.

Hoover's power also plays an essential role moving water into parched and populous southern California.

The Metropolitan Water District uses Hoover's power to move its 550,000 acre-foot annual allocation of water from the Colorado River, over five desert mountain ranges, to Los Angeles.

Without Hoover's power, the Metropolitan Water District's cost of moving that water would be inordinately more expensive.

And if California rate payers had to buy that much power at market rates instead of Hoover Dam's 2.5 cents per kilowatt hour cost of production, it would cost approximately \$180 million more each year.

And that power would likely come from dirtier, more distant sources, including coal plants.

Instead, continued access to Hoover's low-cost, renewable hydropower will keep rates low as California's utilities bring on new, more expensive renewable power to comply with the State's 33-percent renewable portfolio standard.

The legislation also sets up a process through which new power recipients in California will be determined by the Western Area Power Administration.

As explained in the House committee report accompanying this bill, Congress expects the agency to conduct an open hearing and review the process to determine power allocations fairly and equitably.

The process should provide the opportunity for irrigation districts, rural electric cooperatives, and other eligible entities to receive allocations.

Congress also expects that Western Area Power Administration will evaluate the relevant power requests of potential new Hoover power recipients in an open, thorough, and transparent

process to assess both the applicants' power needs and the classes of customers they serve.

The agency should make allocation determinations in an impartial, unbiased, and objective manner, consistent with State and Federal preference standards, and in a way that provides the most benefit to the most Californians.

My colleagues and I also expect that the process and analytical results will be documented and made available for review.

Finally, no discussion of Hoover Dam would be complete without acknowledging efforts to protect endangered species.

Hoover contractors have committed to providing more than \$150 million over 50 years to support the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program for the protection of 26 endangered, threatened and sensitive species.

The legislation authorizing the MSCP was enacted in the 111th Congress and signed into law on March 30, 2009.

I thank the parties for reaching this agreement.

The Hoover Dam is an American success story. And it is a renewable energy success story.

During the depths of the Great Depression, Americans stepped forward to help build one of the great engineering marvels of all time.

Between 1931 and 1936, our Nation made a massive effort involving thousands of workers more than 100 of whom lost their lives to build a powerplant unlike anything the world had ever seen.

Many in Congress at the time argued the cost of Hoover Dam was too high.

They argued that government should not be making such large investments in infrastructure.

They opposed efforts to invest in an unproven energy technology like hydropower.

The debate was strikingly similar to debates we are having in this body today.

Luckily for the people of California, believers in American infrastructure and technology won the Hoover Dam debate.

The U.S. Congress provided Federal funds, but only after the Department of the Interior arranged power contracts at prices sufficient to both, No. 1, cover the operating and maintenance charges and, No. 2 repay the capital appropriated by the U.S. Congress within 50 years.

When the communities and utilities of California, led by the City of Los Angeles, stepped forward to sign those contracts, construction began.

As the years have passed, the investment has been repaid and the wisdom of Congress's decision has become apparent.

And now we have enacted a law that continues the legacy of Hoover Dam.

I thank the generations before us for having the foresight to fund the Hoover

Dam, and I hope we can again rekindle the spirit and invest in America.

RECOGNIZING LORELEI SHEPARD

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and thank Ms. Lorelei Shepard, who will be retiring from the United States Senate at the end of the year. Lorelei began her career on the Hill in 1993, working for the Secretary of the Senate as an elevator operator in the Capitol. She eventually became a supervisor where she was responsible for managing the weekly schedule of 20 operators and supervising their day to day duties. Her pleasant demeanor and calm nature served her well as she guided and delivered confused visitors and harried staff and Senators to their destinations in the Capitol.

She joined the staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence in 1995, as the Committee's receptionist, where once again her calm and friendly approach and knowledge of the Capitol served her well. In 2000, Lorelei decided to pursue one of her dreams and she moved to a beautiful home in a little town in Vermont. As a Californian, I think it is safe to say that although beautiful, the winters in Vermont leave something to be desired. Thanks to that New England winter, Lorelei decided she needed to thaw out and she soon returned to Washington. Through a combination of good luck and timing, the Committee was able to have Lorelei join the Committee staff again, at the end of 2001.

She has served for the last 10 years on the Committee's staff, including for the last 5 years as our security assistant, making sure that classified documents are logged and distributed appropriately, handling classified correspondence, and keeping track of the secrets entrusted to the Committee.

It is the Intelligence Committee's constitutional responsibility to oversee the intelligence activities of our nation. Through her many years of service on the Committee, Lorelei has made a quiet but critical contribution to this effort. For that, I thank her.

Though Lorelei will be leaving, the Shepard family still remains a part of the Senate community. Lorelei's daughter, Lori, and son, Peter, have followed in their mother's footsteps and both work in the Senate today. This is quite a testament to their family's commitment and dedication to our nation and one for which they should be proud.

I wish Lorelei all the best as she retires and eventually returns to Vermont. I know she will enjoy the new-found time she will have to pursue her love of quilting, writing and the myriad of other talents with which she has been blessed.

On behalf of the Intelligence Committee, many thanks Lorelei, best wishes, and stay warm.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2011, which I am pleased to cosponsor today. As attorney general of Rhode Island, I saw firsthand the good work the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, has done to protect victims of domestic violence, to provide crucial services to those in need, and to hold batterers accountable. The VAWA Reauthorization Act builds on that record of success and makes important updates to strengthen the law, while cognizant of the challenging budget circumstances we face. I congratulate Senators LEAHY and CRAPO for their hard work and leadership on this bill.

I am particularly appreciative that Senators LEAHY and CRAPO have included the Saving Money and Reducing Tragedies through Prevention Act of 2011, or the SMART Prevention Act, which I previously introduced, within the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act.

Far too many teens suffer abuse at the hands of a dating partner. According to the Centers for Disease Control, for example, 1 in 10 teenagers reported being hit or physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend at least once in the past year. The SMART Prevention Act will support innovative and effective programs to protect our children from this dangerous abuse.

Earlier this year, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism, I held a field hearing in my home State on "Preventing Teen Violence: Strategies for Protecting Teens from Dating Violence and Bullying." With hundreds of students from Tolman High School in Pawtucket, RI, in the audience, prominent advocates and experts testified about the importance of educational and community programs in preventing dating violence among teenagers.

The witnesses explained that teen dating violence remains a serious problem, but that we can take important preventive measures. Ann Burke, a leading national advocate, explained that school-based teen dating violence prevention programs, especially those focused on middle schools, have proven effective in changing behaviors. The Lindsay Ann Burke Act, named in memory of Ann's daughter, a victim of dating violence, supports abuse education programs for teens in Rhode Island. Since its passage, physical teen dating violence rates in our State have decreased from 14 percent in 2007 to 10 percent in 2009.

These preventive measures are most effective when part of a community-wide approach. As Kate Reilly, the executive director of the Start Strong Rhode Island Project, explained at the hearing, effective prevention programming should not be limited to schools alone, but should "meet kids where

they live and play." That requires involving parents, coaches, mentors, and teen and community leaders, as well as using new technology and social media in innovative ways.

One group of children needs particular attention: children who have witnessed abuse in their home. Deborah DeBare, the executive director of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, explained at the hearing that "growing up in a violent home may . . . lead to higher risks of repeating the cycle of abuse as teens and young adults." By supporting robust services for children exposed to domestic violence in the home, we can help break the intergenerational cycle of violence.

The SMART Prevention Act builds on each of these insights. It would create a new grant program within VAWA to support dating violence education programs targeting young people, with a particular focus on middle school students. The bill would also support programs to train those with influence on youth, including parents, teachers, coaches, older teens, and mentors. The new teen dating violence prevention program would be coordinated with existing grant programs focused on prevention, including a program directed at children who have witnessed violence and abuse. By requiring coordination with these programs, and focusing resources on prevention, the SMART Prevention Act is also smart policy fiscally. Abuse that is prevented reduces the strain on our already overburdened health and education systems.

New laws in several States, as well as innovative and hard-working organizations such as the Lindsay Ann Burke Memorial Fund and the Katie Brown Educational Program in New England, have demonstrated how effective such prevention programs can be, so now is the time for Congress to act.

I again thank Senators LEAHY and CRAPO for their leadership in reauthorizing the Violence Against Women Act. I look forward to working with them and other Senators from both sides of the aisle toward a country that is free from dating and domestic violence.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to mark International Human Rights Day, a day which celebrates the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights by the UN General Assembly on December 10, 1948.

In the immediate aftermath of World War II, and reacting with revulsion to the horrors of that global war and the Holocaust, the community of nations organized itself with the goal of protecting international peace and security. Although the United Nations founding Charter recognized the protection of human rights as one of the