

But charities need resources to meet these needs, and charitable giving by generous and civic-minded Americans is where it all starts. That is why I have defended the tax deduction for charitable giving and I have resisted attempts by some to raise revenue for reckless government spending by reducing the incentives for charitable giving. As my friend and colleague Senator WYDEN, the ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee, has said: “The charitable deduction is a lifeline, not a loophole.”

It is essential that charities have sufficient resources to carry forward the good works our society so desperately needs them to perform. It makes perfect sense to provide the greatest tax incentive for giving to the donors with the greatest capacity to give. These donors, the ones in the high marginal tax brackets, are the very donors that are in a position to give substantial amounts to charity. It should come as no surprise that for nearly 100 years the Tax Code has provided such an incentive.

And the charitable tax deduction is truly special. It is the only deduction that encourages you not to spend or invest your income, but to give it away. Every charitable gift has one thing in common: The donor is always left worse off financially, but society is made better.

So, yes, I am a champion of the charitable sector. And in addition to defending the charitable deduction, I have promoted positive improvements in the charitable tax law. Some of these proposals have been enacted. For example, last year, Congress made the IRA charitable rollover a permanent feature of the Tax Code, as well as the deduction for contributions of food inventory to charity. Congress also extended public charity status to agricultural research organizations associated with a university.

But there is more to do.

Two colleagues that are leading the way in this Congress are Senator THUNE and Senator WYDEN. They recently introduced the Charities Helping Americans Regularly Throughout the Year, or CHARITY, Act. This bill would complete some of the unfinished business from previous years. For example, it expands the group of organizations eligible to receive charitable IRA distributions, it makes a much needed reform to the private foundation excise tax, and it allows foundations to own businesses devoted to philanthropy.

We got close to passing some of these proposals late last year. They didn't make it over the finish line, but we ought to revisit them and try to pass them this year. These provisions, taken together, will help advance the causes of worthwhile charities by allowing American taxpayers to more freely donate their own resources. That is a good thing in my book, and that is why I intend to help my colleagues on the Finance Committee process the CHARITY Act and enact it into law.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO RECIPIENTS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to share with my colleagues the names of this year's winners of the Congressional Award. Established in 1979, the Congressional Award is a way for the U.S. Congress to recognize the achievements of young Americans aged 14 to 23 years old. It rewards them for success in four vital areas: volunteer public service, personal development, physical fitness, and expedition-exploration.

Recipients choose the activities in each area that interest them and set goals that will challenge them and help them grow. If they are successful, they earn bronze, silver, and gold certificates and medals. Along the way, they have gained new skills and earned greater confidence and positioned themselves to become productive, well-rounded, and accomplished citizens.

Each year in June, a ceremony is held here in the Nation's Capital to present these young people with their Congressional Awards. I want to personally congratulate every one of this year's winners for their achievements and for the example they set for others. By improving their own talents, the recipients of the 2016 Congressional Awards are strengthening their communities and our Nation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list of this year's recipients of the Congressional Award be printed in the RECORD.

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

2016 CONGRESSIONAL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Gabriel Cutler, Sean Villeneuve Jr., Adriana Tapia, Jacob Massie, Cydney Kaslar, Catherine Liang, Conor Hassett, Gianna Chien, Dominic Solari, Griffin Ansel, Claire Dashe, Meghan Leong, Ariane Tsai, William Chen, Terence Lee, Benjamin Dotson, Madison DeBruin, Sienna Santer, Brandon Chen, Mark A. Hanson, George McGuigan, John Monday, Kanhai Shah, Ken Iwane, Carl Xue, William Gutzman, Erica Kang, SungMin Shin, Michael Simic, Bryan Deng, Claire YeaLee, Devin Kanzler, Elizabeth Sams, Brandon Winner, Angela SoyChon, Lynn Kim, Jaewoo Han, Steve Han, Brandon Ho, Sora Jeong, Timothy Joo, Kayla Kang, Charlotte Kim, Jay Kim, Vivian Kim, Joanne Lee, Junsu Lee, Robert Lee, Sarah Lee, Bonnie Lei, Emily Mun, Esther Park, Joo Min Yeo, Jae-Hee Yoo, Sang Yun, So Hee Ki, Jeong Inn Lee, Hannah Park, Karan Shah, Joseph Bastien, Sarah Chen, Kayla Jahangiri, Chris Jiang, Alexandra Lee, Samuel Sugarman, Chelsea Barrows, Karl Garrett, Thomas Meiser, Christina Bear, Lauren Lang, Eric Zhang.

Meredith Karle, Duncan Khosla, Allegra Molkenkith, Charlotte Wechsler, Shaleen Thakur, Sonal Thakur, Shyla Blackmon, Jelisa Jackson, Aliya Centner, Safia Centner, Peter Lee, Parker Coye, Varun Singh, Evan Albury, Gabriel Coughlin, Richard Coughlin, Laura Drake, Drew Dubauskas, Robert Ferruggia, Madeline Horowitz, Samantha Keating, Cristina Kodadek, Morgan McDonald, Regina Mur-

phy, Noah Pack, Shikha Patel, Austin Paxson, Thomas Pinkham, Mary Powers, Koushal Rao, Hunter Russo, Joseph Russo, Tyler Wilkinson, Jillian Wrieden, Gabriel Del Campo, Joshua Puchferran, Jade Gibson, Dimitri Godur, Kara McDonough, Julia Abelsky, Elizabeth Harvey, Katie RoseDionne, Noah Smith, Billy McGahan, Kathleen Stueve, Elyssa Turnbull, Cheyenne Quilter, Eric Summers, Kelly Turney, Sarah Close, Christian Cooper, Sarah Stephen, Maddy Peticolas, Robert JamHuber.

Caroline Luehrmann, Carissa McAfee, Tiffany Dattel, Nikhil Kuppaswamy, Megan Nalamachu, Ryan Olson, Melissa Rosenthal, Gavin Zhu, Noah Gillis, Amanda Otten, Ben Otten, Audrey Moore, Gabrielle Moore, Garima Dewan, Mahima Dewan, Lynda Loucif, Rachel Steadman, Lillian Bernel, Sophia Duplin, Catherine Upton, Elizabeth Monger, Megan Selby, Samuel Chestna, Justin Conner, Emily Staunton, Christian Kunau, David Kunau, Benjamin Baker, Hillary Burgess, Molly Chamblee, Karynton NDuke, Dee-Ivy Franklin, John “J.J.” Hitt, Marisa Laudadio, Katherine Penney, Katherine Taylor, David Huff, Meghana Bharadwaj, Nicholas Kahan, Olivia Long, Kaitlynn Allen, Joel Moss, Edayla Talley, Kristin Walther, Emily Gustafson, Amelia Smith, Madison Grooms, Emily Berg, Katrina Nesbit, Marian Sanchez Romo, Andrew Eisert, Megan Feldmann, Stephen Baird, Andrew Geldreich, Philip Ballas, Alexander Brescia, Alexander Bruman, Paige Crain, Elizabeth Emberger, Amaya Liles, Khushbu Patel, Shannon Renshaw, Andrew Sooy.

Alexis Vanaman, Olivia Weldon, Jennifer Farmer, Madeline Farmer, Neharika Pitta, Isaiah Udotong, Christian Boujaoude, Vishvajit Mohan, Harsha Pavuluri, Ruchi Raval, Abhay Sampat, Samay Sampat, Viraj Sampat, Jessica Janneck, Nishi Shah, Trevor Somers, Richard Stelfox, Abigail Campbell, Mary Cathegreeley, Marissa Grillo, Laura Mondadori, Brian Handen, Winona Guo, Marc Klinger, James Borovilas, Sarah Primiano, Jason Pymonto, Thomas Walsh, Madeline Fouts, Cameron Martel, Navkiran Aujla, Stephanie Shum, Edward Moran, Isaac Smith, William Casstevens, ApollinaireBrown, Chloe Harty, Kaitryana Leinbach, Sam Maxwell, Caroline Schauder, Quinn Schneider, Julianna Viveiros, Savannah Bell, William Ruff, Ishan Rola, Hannah Chappell-Dick, Micah Karr, Morgan Karr, Rachana Raghupathy, Elise Radzialowski, Mara Radzialowski, Weston Clark, Nick Schwartz, Gabriela Rueda, Puspa Chamlagai, Ganesh Gurung, Reena Gurung, Shiva Gurung, Ashley Hoyle, Ah Mu Htoo, Mura Htoo, Dhan Karki, Mu Mu, Cing San Nuam, Thayku Paw, Krishna Powdyel, Dhan Tamang, Bawitha Tling, Dhaka Kharel, Katherine Hung, Rachael Eddowes, Katherine Mars, Kyla Martin, Brian Agnew, Cameron Hayes, Ye Eun Kim, Binod Poudel, Madeline Reich, Jared Stevenson, Brianna Yarnoff, Swata Alagar, Cindy Hsieh, Ava Lesko, Marsha Girish, Heather Smith, Briana Minter, Lucy Tomforde, Claire Cromley, Frank Masuelli.

William Ford, Colby Janecka, Hugo Guerra, John Craig, Gabriela Font, Sohan Gadkari, Alisha Kashyap, Christian Barham, Joseph Beatty, Emily Hall, Andrew Zelewski, Akshay Malhotra, Aleskar Villarreal, Anna Nemeck, Travis Purser, Ahmet Selimoglu, Patrick Sharpe, Matthew Dunmire, Lizzy Mothershead, Robert Bishop, James ReedHuston, Rhianna Shaheen, Kelsey Barklund, Kameron Mize, Hunter GraJernigan, Emma Westerhof-Shultz, Divya Wodon, Naina Wodon, Luke Beasey, Snigdha Madiraju, Samantha Lane, Michael Park, Bryan Shin, Christian Pugh, Alyssa LaFleur, Alexandra Coleman, Gerald Johnson, Christine Chen, Sophia Miller, Daniel Saphiere,

Olivia Coon, Noah Schuetz, Sarah Burton, Francesca Hinkle, Ashlynn Johnson, Amelia Rosmarin, Abigail Shockley, and Cristian Soles.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am very concerned about section 563 in the Senate-passed fiscal year 2017 National Defense Authorization Act related to access by institutions of higher education, IHE, to military installations purportedly for advising and support services.

The provision opens the floodgates to military bases and servicemembers for for-profit college recruiters. It guts the President's Principles of Excellence Executive order meant to protect servicemembers from aggressive or abusive recruiting practices on military installations by requiring that an IHE be granted access to a military installation if it has entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Defense, DOD, and has been approved to provide services by the installation's educational service officer. Regardless of other factors which may be of concern to DOD—investigations and lawsuits, infractions of the MOU, etc.—if an IHE convinces a base's educational service officer to grant them access, there is nothing DOD can do to stop it.

In addition, the provision provides preferential treatment to IHE's that enroll large proportions of servicemembers. Providing access to installations based on how many servicemembers an IHE enrolls instead of the actual needs of the servicemembers at those installations does nothing to help improve services for enrolled servicemembers. Instead, it further entrenches the big for-profit players whose business models rely heavily on servicemembers. Those institutions will be able to tout their statutorily guaranteed increased access to military installations when recruiting.

Finally, as passed in the Senate, section 563 does not limit advising and support services to an IHE's currently enrolled students. There have been well-documented cases of IHE's using access to military bases gained under the guise of offering advising and other services for recruitment. The Senate-passed language does not limit an IHE's contact with servicemembers, once on base, to students it currently enrolls. This creates the opportunity for IHE's to clandestinely or openly use their access to recruit other servicemembers to their programs.

Because of the potential harm this provision in the Senate-passed bill will cause to servicemembers—giving near unrestricted access to for-profit college recruiters at a time when most major companies are under State or Federal investigations or lawsuits—I joined Senator BROWN, along with Senators WARREN, BLUMENTHAL, MURRAY, FRANKEN, CARPER, MARKEY, MURPHY,

REED, BOXER, HEINRICH, and SANDERS, to introduce an amendment to remove section 563 from the bill. Military and veterans groups including the Air Force Sergeants Association, Association of the United States Navy, Blue Star Families, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America, Student Veterans of America, Veterans Education Success, and Vietnam Veterans of America submitted a letter in opposition to the provision. The attorneys general of California, Maine, Connecticut, Maryland, District of Columbia, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, Iowa, and Pennsylvania also wrote of their opposition.

Not only is the provision harmful, but it is unnecessary. IHE's already have the ability to gain access to military installations for certain legitimate educational activities. I will work with others who are opposed to this provision to get it removed in conference.

MASS SHOOTING IN ORLANDO

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Marcelle and I, along with all Vermonters, were devastated by the news of the attack in Orlando, and our hearts go out to the victims and their families. All Americans deserve to feel safe in their communities regardless of their race, age, sex, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. In the wake of the worst mass shooting in American history, all of us must stand with the people of Orlando who have been so shaken by this hateful act of terrorism and violence. And in particular, as we celebrate Pride Month, we must stand with and support the LGBT community, both in Orlando and throughout the Nation.

We are so thankful for the law enforcement officers and first responders who rushed to the scene in the middle of the night to confront the killer and save lives. We also are grateful for the work of the doctors and nurses who fought and continue to fight to save even more. My wife, Marcelle, is a registered surgical nurse, and we have been deeply moved to see the outpouring of support by people across Florida and the country who are donating blood and doing what they can to support the victims and their families.

In the wake of tragedies like this, whether the victims are members of the LGBT community, African-American church parishioners, first graders in an elementary school, college students, moviegoers, or others in our community, we are called as Americans to come together in solidarity. We come together in grief and in shock. We come together in support of the victims, their families, law enforcement personnel and first responders, and the entire community. And we come together to try and find a way to prevent further acts of senseless violence. We are at our best as a nation when we come together. When we are united in strength and in courageous acts of self-

lessness and kindness, our country can move forward with a greater sense of purpose and hope.

We must not allow ourselves to be divided by the bigoted actions of a murderer or by any fear that the killer sought to foment. He took an assault rifle into a nightclub, one that was known as a special place in Orlando's LGBT community. He fired on a crowd of innocent, unarmed people. This man was no fighter and certainly no soldier. This was either the act of a murderous bigot trying to shroud his hatred by professing allegiance to ISIL or the actions of a cowardly terrorist seeking to paralyze and divide us with fear—or perhaps both. In either case, we cannot let his heinous acts lead us to turn on one another.

Some are already using this horrific attack as an opportunity to further divide us. The Republican Party's presumptive Presidential nominee continues to peddle his corrosive rhetoric of fear by proposing to ban all Muslims from entering the country. This week he went even further by suggested that the entire Muslim American community was somehow complicit in this heinous act. This is irresponsible fear-mongering—plain and simple. It is guilt by association. And it makes us less safe. We should all condemn this bigotry and reject attempts to foment fear and hatred. We are stronger and safer when we reject such attempts to divide us.

The Republican standard bearer has also questioned the motivations and patriotism of the President of the United States. These insinuations are dangerous. They are beyond the pale, and I reject them emphatically and categorically. I call on every Member of this body to do the same. We are a better nation than this.

The American people are rightfully demanding action instead of rhetoric. They are tired of hearing that the tragedy in Orlando and the countless others we have endured are not about our gun laws. We must recognize that we have a security weakness in this country and ISIL is exploiting it. Our enemies know that in the United States you can go online or to a gun show and buy a gun. You don't need to have identification. No background check will be run. You can simply acquire a semi-automatic weapon that can kill dozens of people in a matter of minutes.

We must have universal background checks. That is simply common sense. We have had background checks for decades. I am among millions of responsible gun owners in this country who undergo background checks when we purchase a firearm. And, like millions of responsible gun owners, I understand that this check is necessary to help keep guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists. It is common sense that we need to close the loopholes that allow people to evade background checks altogether. And we must also make sure that the background checks are effective. That means giving law enforcement the power to stop