

shot to death. In comparison, in the same period of time, we lost 101 troops in Iraq and 99 in Afghanistan.

The people of Chicago deserve better than life in a war zone. Hundreds of Chicago public school students have been shot so far this year. By the end of the school year in June, at least 36 had died.

Over the Fourth of July weekend, while most of us celebrated our Nation's independence, Chicago suffered through an almost unparalleled torrent of gun violence: 63 shootings were tallied, and 11 of them were fatal.

The carnage on Independence Day weekend led the Chicago Tribune to demand on July 10: "Where is our courage? Where is the indignation over the slaughter of Chicago's children?"

This is far too high a price to pay for inaction. I will say it again: The people of Chicago deserve better than life in a war zone. Students deserve better than being gunned down in the streets after school and parents deserve better than having to raise families in the midst of a bloodbath. We must work vigorously to combat the rampant gun violence in our cities and urban areas.

As a registered gun owner myself, I respect the second amendment and responsible gun ownership. However, I am deeply concerned about the devastating consequences of guns falling into the wrong hands. To this end, I strongly believe we should keep firearms out of the hands of children, terrorists, and criminals, and in solving this problem we need to provide local law enforcement officials with the support they so desperately need.

Concealed carry regulation is an issue best left to cities and States and not the Federal Government. It is our job as Federal legislators to enact measures that strengthen States' law enforcement efforts instead of arbitrarily increasing their burden. A national standard of reciprocity would ignore the challenges local law enforcement struggles with on a daily basis when combating gangs and drug dealers in big cities.

I am not alone in my opposition to the Thune amendment. I join the International Association of Chiefs of Police and State lawmakers around the country in recognizing that this legislation would severely hamper efforts to combat gun crime in our Nation's urban areas.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have 2 letters from the the mayor of the city of Chicago, Mayor Daley, and the Major Cities Chiefs Association be printed in the RECORD.

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

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
Chicago, IL, July 17, 2009.

Hon. ROLAND W. BURRIS,
U.S. Senate, Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR BURRIS: I am writing to express the City of Chicago's strong opposition to Senator Thune's amendment regarding concealed carry reciprocity, and to urge you

to vote against this amendment as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010 (S. 1390).

Although the State of Illinois would not be affected directly by its passage, this amendment runs the possible risk of reinforcing current movements in the Illinois legislature to pass concealed-carry laws, which would greatly set back Chicago's efforts to curtail gun violence. Concealed carry regulation is an issue best left to cities and states, and not the Federal government. A national standard of reciprocity would ignore the challenges local law enforcement struggle with on a daily basis when combating gangs and drug dealers in big cities.

Passage of this amendment would limit the ability of states and local governments to protect their citizens with common-sense and community-specific laws and regulations regarding the carrying of hidden handguns. It would promote gun trafficking by making it easier to transport firearms between states without the fear of being apprehended by law enforcement. The bill would also endanger the safety of our police officers by making it more difficult to distinguish between legal and illegal gun possession—ambiguity that would have life or death consequences.

The City of Chicago continues to do all it can to protect our communities from the gun violence of gangs and drug dealers. It is a tireless effort that requires the involvement of the community members, the hard work of local law enforcement and sensible policy decisions made at all levels of government. The Thune amendment would serve as an obstacle to these efforts, and that is why I strongly urge you to oppose this potentially debilitating legislation.

Sincerely,

RICHARD M. DALEY,
Mayor.

MAJOR CITIES CHIEFS ASSOCIATION,
JULY 17, 2009.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, Hart Office Bldg., U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, Cannon Office Bldg., House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID AND SPEAKER PELOSI: On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs, I am writing to express our strong opposition to S. 845 and H.R. 1620, the Respecting States Rights and Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2009. Because we are responsible for public safety in the largest jurisdictions in the United States, we recognize that this legislation would be an enormous mistake.

This misguided legislation would undermine efforts by law enforcement agencies across the Nation and thwart measures already enacted by the states. Please know that we stand with the more than 400 Mayors who have objected to this ill-conceived proposal.

An oversimplification of carefully reasoned standards and licensing provisions, the proposed measure would arbitrarily overturn laws which have been tailored to the needs of regions and local communities. Passage of this legislation would be an affront to Federalism as it would force a state to accept permits from other jurisdictions—whether or not the permits comport with the laws of that state.

We are confident that members of Congress will respect the authority of states, counties and cities to adopt their own regulations regarding weapons and will not act with disregard for the many reasonable and prudent laws already in place across the Nation.

Chiefs of Police and Sheriffs call upon you to vote against this dangerous and unconstitutional legislation.

All the best,

WILLIAM J. BRATTON,
Chief of Police, Los Angeles, CA,
President, Major Cities Chiefs' Association.

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, as I said earlier, cities in every State face unique challenges that require tailored solutions. This is never truer than with the issue of gun control. It is imperative that States set their own standards for concealed carry permits and are not obligated to honor permits awarded elsewhere with different, potentially less rigorous requirements. We must not tie the hands of State governments regarding their ability to protect and serve their citizens.

I think that this legislation moves our national gun policy in the wrong direction. In their assessment of the recent gun violence, the Tribune opined that "The tragic loss of brave soldiers killed overseas grabs media headlines and fuels the raging fires of political debate. Meanwhile, in another war right here in our own backyard, the killings continue, almost ignored."

We cannot ignore this horrific situation any longer. We must not be conned into believing that easier access to firearms will reduce firearm deaths. Rather than making it easier for people to bring concealed weapons into other States, I hope my colleagues will get serious about addressing the urgent problem of gun crime in our cities and among our youth.

I urge my fellow Senators to not only vote against this amendment but to join me in working towards a real solution for this senseless cycle of death.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

CONGRATULATING YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate the community and business leaders of Youngstown, OH, for showing the rest of the Nation what so many of us in Ohio already know: Youngstown is one of the Nation's best places to start a business.

I have held some 140 community roundtables across Ohio's 88 counties at least once since I have been in the Senate, where I have met with educators, students, community and business leaders, and entrepreneurs and workers.

I have held a half dozen roundtables in the Mahoning Valley, including two in Youngstown, and have traveled across towns along the Mahoning River and across its valley.

From the autoworker in Lordstown to the electrician in Warren, to the technology entrepreneur in Youngstown, to the small business owner in Salem, I am impressed by their unwavering commitment to rebuilding this region.

Youngstown remains a great city in the face of many challenges, and its

dedicated and talented workforce is driving today's innovation and ingenuity.

Each time I visit Youngstown, I learn something new—from Mayor Williams, the fine, aggressive, very bright, young mayor of Youngstown, to Chamber of Commerce leader Tom Humphries, to dozens of teachers, small business people, workers, and citizens.

It is easy to see why *Entrepreneur Magazine* lists Youngstown as one of the top 10 U.S. cities to start a business. On the cover it says: "Youngstown, Ohio, anyone?"

In their August issue, *Entrepreneur Magazine* describes Youngstown as a "dreamer," where technology innovation is driving job growth and sustaining economic activity.

Bold plans and visionary leadership have set the stage for sustained economic growth. Youngstown's healthy dose of all-American grit and hard work will turn economic potential into economic reality, driving regional economic expansion that can strengthen Ohio's middle class.

It takes what *Entrepreneur Magazine* called a "concept revolutionary enough to help ignite a renaissance in this small city."

It takes a community that understands a transformation must take place from within—from the educators to innovators, from community activists to the industry leaders. Faced with a choice, it takes the foresight to invest in the future and not dwell on the sometimes troubled past.

Today, we are seeing the results of a decade-long process of renewal and rebirth for Youngstown, in Warren, and the entire Mahoning Valley.

More than a year ago, I made my first trip to the Youngstown Business Incubator, which is an example of community and business leaders nurturing startup companies that can strengthen the regional economy.

Nurtured in the Youngstown Business Incubator in 2002, Turning Technologies, for example, has become one of the fastest growing technology companies in the Nation, according to *Entrepreneur Magazine*.

This is no accident. Mike Broderick, from Turning Technologies, and other emerging businesses, say they have relied on the affordable startup costs, accessible resources, the transportation network that criss-crosses western Pennsylvania and Ohio, and the community involvement that allowed businesses to thrive.

An important part of Youngstown's favorable business climate is access to talented workers and students. Kent State's Trumbull campus is a model for workforce training among Ohio's colleges and universities. Their educators are training a legion of highly skilled workers for Ohio's emerging high-tech industry.

But more must be done to close the gap between high unemployment in that part of Ohio. My whole State is still afflicted by high unemployment

and this terrible recession. More must be done to close the gap between the high unemployment and the shortage of skilled workers and emerging industries.

Congressman TIM RYAN, with whom the Presiding Officer and I both served in the House of Representatives, and who represents Youngstown in the House, and I recently introduced the Strengthening Employment Clusters to Organize Regional Success, or SECTORS Act.

SECTORS would help allow businesses, workforce development boards, labor unions, and community colleges to connect skilled workers with workforce and community needs. We will see that with Youngstown State University in Youngstown, and with the Trumbull County branch of Kent State University.

SECTORS is not only a jobs skill bill, but an economic development bill. It is only one part of the citywide strategy to harness the talented workforce and students.

Youngstown State University is training engineers and contributing to workforce needs of an emerging advanced materials sector, involving advanced chemical and composite engineering and nanotechnology. I have seen some of this technology in the Mahoning Valley, and it is ready to take off.

YSU's science, technology, engineering, and math program, or STEM, teaches students the critical skills in the fields of advanced sciences, information technology, and engineering.

If our students succeed in the 21st century global economy, we must invest in our young people, who will create the businesses and opportunities for future growth.

We must also ensure that our communities are part of economic revival around the State.

I met with the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative at one of my roundtables. We sat for an hour and a half in the basement of a church, with 15 community activists, who have a focus you wouldn't believe. This is a collective effort of neighborhood groups, churches, and labor unions. It is another example of citizens taking ownership of their community. It is revitalizing neighborhoods, surveying land to determine future economic use, and cleaning up crime-ridden neighborhoods. Ordinary citizens are organizing to make a difference, and it is working.

Yet another example of strategic economic development is the Youngstown 2010 Citywide Plan, which aims to revitalize the city of Youngstown with carefully planned economic development and urban planning.

As Ohio cities experience population loss, Youngstown's efforts to modernize infrastructure to serve current population needs is a harbinger of economic growth in the State.

All of these efforts are part of a collective strategy by workers, entrepreneurs, educators, and elected offi-

cials to tap into the region's rich resources and innovative spirit. That is why *Entrepreneur Magazine* wrote about Youngstown, calling it the "dreamer." Out of these 10 cities, the other 9 are significantly larger than Youngstown, but none could equal Youngstown in hope, focus, and energy.

I will read some things they said:

In the last decade, something special happened in this northeast Ohio city. A new generation is envisioning things we wouldn't have talked about 10 years ago. "Let's clean the slate and start over again" is the radical transformation going on in Youngstown right now.

Mike Broderick, of Turning Technologies, said:

I believe in most places we wouldn't have been able to expand with the speed we did. The affordability here really helped fuel our growth. I found Youngstown to be a brilliant place for a startup.

It has been my pleasure to work with Congressman RYAN, Mayor Williams, the Youngstown Business Incubator, Turning Technologies, and all of the community activists who are working hard to create new opportunities for a better and stronger Youngstown.

Ohio's dedicated workforce and hard-working community leaders are leading examples of how we can turn around our economy, create new jobs, and how we can, across my State, and across the Mahoning Valley in Ohio, and across this country, rebuild our middle class.

Mr. President, before yielding the floor, I add that all of us who do this work and are, frankly, blessed enough to get to serve in the Senate spend much of our time away from home or our families are back, in my case, in Ohio, or in Washington. Either way, we are away from families more than we would like. I would like to, because today is my wife's birthday, wish her a happy birthday, if she is home watching this. If she is not, I will tell her later. I could not be with her today in Ohio. I look forward to coming home this weekend.

I yield the floor.

REMEMBERING MASON RUDD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today with sadness to honor the life of Mr. Mason Rudd, a good friend who died on July 5, 2009, at the age of 90. He was loved by many in my hometown of Louisville, KY, and he will be missed.

Mason will be remembered as an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and family man who did so much to make his adopted hometown a better place.

His American dream began at the University of Minnesota, where he funded his college education with help from a tennis scholarship, participation in ROTC, and by selling doughnuts. In 1939, he graduated with a degree in geology and petroleum engineering. After college, his service in World War II led him to believe that he survived the war for one reason—to