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Budget

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-5004

July 12, 2005

John Motsch  
2134 Johnstone Road  
Casper, Wyoming 82604

Dear John:

Thank you for your comments about Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and the remarks he made comparing Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to prisons under Hilter, Stalin, and Pol Pot on the Senate floor on June 16, 2004.

What Dick Durbin said was wrong - incorrect and grossly inappropriate. Senator Durbin is not the only one to make outlandish statements. Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean has made venomous misstatements and his incorrect words may assure a bigger Republican majority. Senator Durbin has prompted, by his remarks, his colleagues to go to the Senate floor and talk shows and deny association - which is even more harmful to him than Republican comments because most people expect us to be in opposition. Those comments will hurt Senator Durbin the rest of his career and will undoubtedly shorten it. People in the military and those related to people in the military have done an excellent job of sharing their comments directly with Senator Durbin's office. He made a tearful apology speech - but carefully avoided apologizing. Press coverage across the nation, however, wrote him a "get-out-of-jail" free pass.

Censure was considered. Letters were drawn up. Paperwork was provided - but public opinion cast us as vindictive in light of his "inadvertent comments in the passion of giving a speech". It appears as though the consequences are a loss of credibility, loss of responsibility, and a good opponent in the next race.

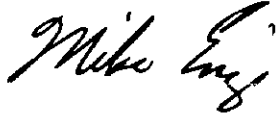
It is important to show support for our military as they carry out their current missions in Iraq and Afghanistan in the Global War on Terrorism. I will continue to support our military as

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they carry out the current peacekeeping missions. My thoughts and prayers are with them and all who serve in our nation's military.

Thank you for taking the time to contact me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Enzi".

Michael B. Enzi  
United States Senator

MBE:ej