

TRIBUTE TO DIANA LEWIS

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to extend my warmest congratulations to Diana Lewis of Charlottesville, VA, on her selection as the 1996 Private Sector Employee of the Year by the General Council of Industries for the Blind and the National Industries for the Blind. She will be honored at their Annual Training Conference on October 8, 1996.

Ms. Lewis was born with congenital cataracts. She underwent several eye operations as a young child, which delayed her entry into school. However, her desire to succeed did not waiver. She attended Romney School for the Blind in West Virginia but left school early to marry, become a homemaker, and eventually became the mother of two sons.

Ten years ago, Ms. Lewis moved to the Commonwealth and soon faced the challenge of finding her first job. As a single parent with two young sons, Ms. Lewis turned to the Virginia Industries for the Blind [VIB], a division of the Virginia Department for the Visually Handicapped [VDVH], for employment and training opportunities. She quickly demonstrated her desire to succeed by mastering many sewing operations, becoming an accomplished seamstress.

During her employment at the Virginia Industries for the Blind, Ms. Lewis earned her general education diploma [GED] and continued her education to become a certified nursing assistant. She joined Westminster Canterbury of the Blue Ridge in Charlottesville a year ago, and is currently employed as a certified nursing assistant in the skilled care unit. As a nursing assistant, Ms. Lewis tends to elderly residents who require constant care. Ms. Lewis hopes to one day become a physical therapist.

Ms. Lewis' drive and dedication to overcome adversity makes her an example for all of us. I am pleased to join Ms. Lewis and her family and friends in wishing her much success in all of her future endeavors. Ms. Lewis is an outstanding representative of the blind community in Virginia, and I ask you to please join me in congratulating her as the 1996 Private Sector Employee of the Year.●

SHUT DOWN THE U.S. ARMS BAZAAR

• Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, one of the finest editorials I have read in recent months appeared in the Chicago Tribune, titled "Shut Down the U.S. Arms Bazaar."

It is contrary to the security of the interest of the United States that we are the No. 1 arms merchant in the world. Not only are we the No. 1 arms merchant, but we subsidize what ultimately can prove harmful to our security.

And it is not only a threat to our security.

When I visit a place like Angola and see so many children going about with

one leg missing or two legs missing and know that this has been caused, in part, by land mines built in the United States, or financed by the United States, I am troubled.

Again and again, we are in a situation where we find American weapons used against our troops. That should teach us something, but it doesn't seem to.

This is one editorial that every Member of the Senate and every staff member should read.

I ask that the editorial be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The editorial follows:

[From the Chicago Tribune]

SHUT DOWN THE U.S. ARMS BAZAAR

President Clinton spoke eloquently and probably expressed the view of most citizens when, accepting the Democratic Party's nomination in Chicago last month, he pledged that U.S. foreign policy would be one that "advances the values of our American community in the community of nations."

Here's a place to start, Mr. President: End the outdated and outrageously dangerous policy of encouraging sales of American weapons abroad, particularly to countries in the developing world, unless there is a compelling U.S. security interest to be defended.

What American value is represented by the fact that the U.S. remains the largest exporter of weapons in a post-Cold War world in which there is no monolithic enemy to be contained?

Although Russia made the news in recent days by outstripping the U.S. in sales of arms to Third World governments in 1995, a careful reading of the report showed that this was an artifact of one transaction: a \$6 billion sale of fighter jets to China.

Otherwise, however, Uncle Sam is boss of the arms bazaar, with contracts for about half of all arms sales worldwide. Year in and year out, America sells more weapons to the Third World than any other country.

Certainly these developing lands could put their scarce financial resources to better use, namely to build or improve schools, hospitals, sanitation and transportation systems.

Aha, you say! If the U.S. stops selling these arms abroad, someone else—Russia, France, Italy, Germany, Britain, the Czech Republic, even—will rush in and snatch up the lucrative contracts.

So what? Of the 50 armed conflicts in this decade—mostly vile ethnic, religious or tribal rivalries, guerrilla uprisings and petty territorial disputes—45 were fought with weapons stamped "Made in the USA."

Should weapons sales be our ambassador of democracy? Is increasing the efficiency of armed combatants, without regard to vital U.S. interests, a value we choose to represent America abroad?

Even espousing a traditional sense of national security, the U.S. can dominate the international arms market, according to Sarah Walkling, a senior analyst with the Arms Control Association. That's because NATO, the western military alliance that is the backbone of American national security and includes this nation's dearest allies, is the largest market for U.S. arms, consuming 43 percent of American weapons sales abroad at a cost of \$3.9 billion. NATO will continue to be the biggest client for American weapons, which is a fine thing for all concerned.

But now Chile wants U.S. F-16 jet-fighters. With no international threat to the region, to what purpose would those top-of-the-line attack craft be put? Only to act upon territorial ambitions and border disputes and to spark a wasteful hemispheric arms race.

And then there's Indonesia. Indonesia is in the midst of a crude crackdown on political dissent that is the antithesis of values America wants to promote. Should Indonesia get the F-16s it wants? Certainly not.

Although Clinton pledged a values-driven foreign policy, a Presidential Decision Directive he signed last year pushes arms sales abroad to "enhance the ability of the U.S. defense industrial base, to meet U.S. defense requirements and to maintain long-term military technological superiority at lower costs."

That, in the words of William Hartung, a senior fellow of the World Policy Institute at the New School for Social Research, is nothing but welfare for big arms manufacturers and weapons dealers.

In order to help American firms get to a bigger share of the world arms market, the U.S. government spent \$7.6 billion—in 1995 alone—in subsidies, grants, guaranteed loans and cash payments, and in the use of government personnel to promote products and overseas air shows, Hartung says.

The argument that these arms sales abroad protect jobs at home is no longer necessarily true, since many new purchasers now demand, as part of the contract, the right to produce these expensive weapons on their turf. Thus, Hartung says, the biggest production line for the F-16 is no longer in the U.S. but in Turkey.

Even more sinister is the concept of "blowback."

During the Cold War, a powerful argument for arms sales abroad was to allow the United States leverage over foreign powers and to give us inside knowledge about another power's arsenal—to "know what we're up against." Today, all bets are off, and what American troops have come up against is the finest American weapons wielded by opposition troops—in Panama, in Iran, in Iraq, in Haiti, in Somalia and, to a smaller extent, in Bosnia.

America cannot control its weapons once sold. Allies whose national security interests coincide with ours deserve our trust and have earned the right to purchase American-made weapons.

But weapons sales motivated solely by a market opportunity merely fuel conflict—conflict that may require America to step in later with its diplomatic and military muscle.

There is no profit in that.●

AD-HOC HEARING ON TOBACCO

• Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, on September 11th, I co-chaired with Senator KENNEDY an ad-hoc hearing on the problem of teen smoking. We were joined by Senators HARKIN, WELLSTONE, BINGAMAN and SIMON. Regrettably, we were forced to hold an ad-hoc hearing on this pressing public health issue because the Republican leadership refused to hold a regular hearing, despite our many pleas.

We held this hearing to listen to real people tell us about the addictiveness of nicotine and their support for the President Clinton's FDA proposal to cut teen smoking in half. Unlike one of the other Presidential candidates, we know that nicotine is addictive. And we know that the FDA should regulate it and protect our children.

We also made it clear that we will reject half hearted compromise legislative proposals which do not protect our children from the tobacco companies.

Essentially, we will oppose any compromise legislation that does protect FDA's ability to safeguard our kids or the public health. Our first priority in any legislative settlement should be to save our children from future nicotine addiction.

Mr. President, President Clinton deserves credit for being the first President in recent history to take on the tobacco companies. He has an excellent record of protecting our children.

However, this Congress' record on tobacco and children is shameful.

On January 3, 1995, a new Republican majority took over Congress. They publicly pushed their Contract with America. But privately, they pursued another contract—a contract of silence with the tobacco companies.

Since the Republicans took over Congress, more than 660,000 people have died from smoking and over 1.7 million of our children have begun smoking.

What has been this Congress' response to this public health epidemic? Pure silence.

In one fell swoop—gone were the House hearings where the CEO's swore under oath that nicotine was not addictive. And gone were the Senate hearings on the dangers of secondhand smoke and the health care benefits of increasing the tobacco tax.

It took President Clinton's bold FDA policy to break the silence. And we need to make more noise—to stop our children from ever becoming hooked. We need to fight the biggest cause of preventable death in America—tobacco use. Because like AIDS, silence equals death when it comes to tobacco.

At the hearing, we heard from several witnesses who have first-hand knowledge of the dangers of tobacco addiction. We heard from Justin Hoover, a 12-year-old boy from West Des Moines, IA who told us how he smoked his first cigarette at the age of 6, and was addicted to tobacco when he was 9. He told us how easy it was for him to obtain cigarettes, often by stealing them. He told us how difficult it has been for him to try and break his addiction, despite the best efforts of his mother, teachers, and his DARE officer, Jody Hayes, who accompanied Justin at the hearing.

Officer Hayes said that the level of smoking among teens is the worst that he has seen. He also told us that tobacco is clearly a gateway drug that can lead to marijuana and cocaine use. He strongly admonished us that "we have to stop drug use where it starts, and that is with tobacco."

We also heard from Minnesota Attorney General "Skip" Humphrey who told us of his concerns of proposed Federal legislation to resolve all litigation and regulation affecting the tobacco industry. He noted that it is essential that tobacco "like every other product Americans eat, drink or ingest, be placed under the on-going jurisdiction of an appropriate Federal agency, such as the FDA."

We listened to the testimony of Dr. Ian Uydess, who worked as a research

scientist for Philip Morris for over 10 years. He told us how well informed the tobacco industry has been regarding the health effects and addictive quality of tobacco. He said that the major tobacco companies could have used this information to develop a safer product, but they chose not to do so.

We also heard from Morton Downey, Jr., the former talk-show host whose symbol was the smoking cigarette butt. As he has contracted lung cancer, he now asks forgiveness from the young people he may have influenced to smoke.

Alan Landers, a former Winston model, told us of the pain caused by two lung operations. He gave riveting testimony on the addictiveness of tobacco. He told us that he was smoking the night before he was to have lung surgery because he could not quit. He now tours high schools warning children of the dangers of smoking.

Janet Sackman, another former cigarette model, bravely testified how when she was 17, she was told by an agent that if she wanted the look to get ahead in the business, she should start smoking. She developed cancer of the larynx and now struggles to speak.

Mr. President, these people are a testament to the tragedy of tobacco addiction in this country. And they all have two things in common. They started smoking before they were 18 and they all have cancer. These examples demonstrate why the President's proposal to protect our children is so crucial.

Mr. President, after I complete my statement, I am going to ask that the statements of the participating in ad-hoc hearing be placed in the record. Over the next 3 days I will insert the testimony of the witnesses from each of the three panels. I hope that all of my colleagues, from both chambers and both sides of the aisle will read these compelling statements. Regrettably, this will be the only hearing record on tobacco issues this Congress, despite the constant revelations in the press about industry documents outlining the dangers of smoking.

I only hope that the next Congress' record on protecting our children is not as shameful.

Mr. President, I ask that the statements of the Senators attending this ad-hoc hearing be printed in the RECORD.

The statements follow:

STATEMENT BY SENATOR FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

First, I would like to thank Senator Kennedy for co-chairing this hearing with me and all of the other Senators who are participating. I would also like to welcome and thank all of the witnesses for being here at today's ad-hoc hearing on teen smoking.

We are here to show our support for the FDA proposal to cut teen smoking in half. Unlike one of the Presidential candidates, we know that nicotine is addictive. And we know that the FDA should regulate it and protect our children.

Today, we are also here to say that we will reject half hearted compromise legislative proposals that do not protect our children.

We will oppose any compromise legislation that does protect FDA's ability to safeguard our kids or the public health. Our first priority in any settlement should be to save our children from future nicotine addiction.

President Clinton deserves credit for being the first President in recent history to take on the tobacco companies. He has an excellent record of protecting our children.

On the other side of Pennsylvania avenue, however, this Congress' record on tobacco and children is shameful.

On January 3, 1995, a new Republican majority took over Congress. They publicly pushed their Contract with America. But privately, they pursued another contract—a contract of silence with the tobacco companies.

Since the Republicans took over Congress, 660,488 people have died from smoking and 1,764,000 children began smoking.

What has been this Congress' response to this public health epidemic? Pure silence!

In one fell swoop—gone were the House hearings where the CEOs swore under oath that nicotine was not addictive. And gone were the Senate hearings on the dangers of secondhand smoke and the health care benefits of increasing the tobacco tax.

It took President Clinton's bold FDA policy to break the silence. And we are here to make more noise—to stop our children from ever becoming hooked. We are here to fight the biggest cause of preventable death in America—tobacco use. Because like AIDS, silence equals death when it comes to tobacco.

Today, we will hear from people who know firsthand about the dangers of smoking. We will hear from a 12 year old child who is addicted to cigarettes and his DARE officer. We will hear from a former Philip Morris research scientist who will tell us that the tobacco industry knew full well that nicotine was addictive and manipulated it to hook smokers. We will hear from Minnesota Attorney General "Skip" Humphrey who is taking on the tobacco industry in court on behalf of our children.

Before we proceed, I wanted to let the participants know that there will not be an official hearing transcript for this proceeding but I will insert all written statements into the Congressional record so your stories will become part of the official record of the Senate. I hope my colleagues from both sides of the aisle and both chambers, will read your testimony and work with us to save our children.

—

STATEMENT OF SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

Twenty-nine years ago today, on September 11, 1967, my brother, Senator Robert Kennedy addressed the World Conference on Smoking and Health. Representatives of thirty-four nations had gathered in New York to talk about ways to stop mounting death rates from cigarette smoking.

He spoke to his audience about the difficulty of convincing people—young persons, in particular—that smoking can kill them. He emphasized grim statistics of premature death and illness caused by smoking. He said that cigarettes would have been banned years ago—were it not for the economic power of the tobacco industry.

Limiting cigarette advertising was at the top of his list of strategies to discourage young men and women from beginning to smoke. At that time, the industry was spending \$300 million a year to attract new smokers.

Since then, the amount the industry spends on advertising has soared to \$6 billion a year. Much of this advertising is targeted at youth, with images that promise popularity and success for those who smoke. Children are particularly vulnerable to this sort

of advertising. The Joe Camel campaign was cynically targeted directly at youth. Profits rolled in, and Camel's market share among youth soared from 0.5% to 32.8%.

The industry targets youth because it knows that almost all smokers begin before they reach the age of 18. If you make it to 18 without smoking, it's very unlikely you'll ever smoke. The average smoker begins at 13—and becomes a daily smoker by 14 and a half.

For over 30 years, using its relentless political power, the tobacco industry has managed to avoid needed federal regulation of their product. It has been said that tobacco is the least regulated of any legal product.

Now, at last, President Clinton has had the courage to insist on real steps to reduce youth access to tobacco and tobacco advertising aimed at youth. His goal is to cut teen smoking in half over the next seven years.

President Clinton's proposal comes at a crucial time for America's youth. Not only has smoking been rising steadily among adolescents since 1992, but drug use, especially use of marijuana, is also rising among this same group.

Clearly, tobacco is a gateway drug. If we reduce tobacco use, we will reduce other drug use too. According to a 1994 report by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, children who smoke cigarettes are 12 times more likely to use marijuana and 19 times more likely to use cocaine.

Our hearing today is intended to deal with these important issues. It speaks volumes that the Republican Congress is unwilling to hold a hearing like this. But we hope they will pay attention to the facts we will hear.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR TOM HARKIN

I want to join my colleagues in thanking all of the witnesses who have given their time to be with us today, and I want to add a special welcome to our witnesses here from West Des Moines, Iowa—Justin Hoover and Officer Jody Hayes—who I will be introducing in just a moment.

All of us are here because we all agree—we need to protect our children from tobacco—and we need to do it now.

For too long, young people have been getting an unfiltered message from the tobacco industry. Smoking is cool. Smoking is harmless. Smoking will make you look older and more attractive.

Today, the tobacco industry pours over \$6 billion a year into advertising their products and promoting that message. And often they are zeroing in on our kids—through magazine ads, billboards, sporting events, and, of course, the ubiquitous Joe Camel.

We know what these tobacco advertising campaigns are all about. They are deliberately designed to keep people smoking, but more importantly, to attract a new generation to the smoking habit. In fact, according to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Joe Camel is just as recognizable to six-year old as Mickey Mouse.

But the industry hasn't stopped with Joe Camel. Joe and his competitors have started merchandising "clubs" in which you can smoke your way to all sorts of gifts. A 1992 Gallup survey found that about half of adolescents smokers and one quarter of non-smokers owned at least one tobacco industry promotional item.

The motivations of these tobacco companies is clear. They'll do anything to make a buck. But I can't understand irresponsible statements made by some of our elected officials regarding tobacco.

Some in Congress have compared tobacco to milk or to chicken soup. What kind of message does that send to our kids?

There is a difference. Milk builds. Tobacco destroys. Chicken soup heals. Tobacco kills.

The only message that our children should hear about tobacco is the truth. Smoking is a killer. Smoking is addictive. Smoking stinks. It's a deadly habit that will make kids less attractive and less fit. That message needs to come through loud and clear so children like Justin are never tempted in the first place.

That message needs to start at home. Parents need to let their children know about the dangers of tobacco. But the message shouldn't end in the home. All of us can be partners with families in the fight against tobacco.

We need to make much more difficult for children to get their hands on tobacco in the first place.

Kids shouldn't be able to walk into a convenience store and purchase cigarettes . . . or buy them out of a vending machine . . . or even be tempted to steal cigarettes left in the open in self-service displays.

President Clinton has put forth a responsible plan. The President's plan is the right thing to do. It will help families keep tobacco out of the hands of their children. And I strongly support it.

But I believe we can do more to protect kids from tobacco and strengthen families. That's why I have introduced common sense legislation to eliminate the tax deductibility of tobacco advertising. Today, American taxpayers are forced to cough up nearly \$2 billion a year to subsidize the tobacco industry. That's not right and we ought to stop it.

Again, I want to welcome Justin Hoover and Jody Hayes. Justin is 12 years old and is from West Des Moines Iowa. He smoked his first cigarette when he was 6-years old.

He is going to tell us how and why he started smoking, how he has tried to quit, and how easy it is for him to obtain cigarettes.

I also want to welcome Officer Jody Hayes who is a Community Relations Officer for the West Des Moines Police Department. He is a D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer and works with students from pre-school to high school. He is on the front lines in the fight against drug abuse.

And he has seen first hand how easy it is for young children to gain access to tobacco and how vulnerable they are to the industry's message that smoking is cool.

Officer Hayes, I want to thank you for not only being here today, but for the work you do day in and day out to protect our kids and help them stick to the right path. I just can't understand why some in Congress want to cut funds for the D.A.R.E. program and stop people like you from doing the great work you do.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR JEFF BINGAMAN

I am pleased to be a part of this Ad-Hoc hearing on tobacco issues and in particular the health effects of tobacco use. As many of you know, I have been a strong advocate of taking a tough stand on the issue of federal regulation of tobacco products. Since 1989, I have been working to require the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to regulate the manufacture and sale of tobacco products. I was very proud last year when Congress approved my legislation banning cigarette vending machines in federal buildings on most federal property, and very pleased earlier this year when the General Services Administration (GSA) ordered the removal of the machines.

For many years, I also have been working to ban tobacco vending machines on Federal property that are accessible to children. Clearly, something is not working when, every day, more than 3,000 children and teen-

agers start smoking and 1,000 of them will die from tobacco related illness. In New Mexico, nearly one-third of the state's teenagers smoke. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, New Mexico has a teenage smoking rate of 32.6 percent—only eight other states have higher rates. It is difficult to prevent children from buying cigarettes when they are readily accessible from vending machines. If we expect states, localities, schools, parents, and even the tobacco industry itself to help protect our children from tobacco, then we in the federal government should lead the effort.

It is time for a new course of action. I am very pleased that President Clinton is expanding the Federal role in fighting teen smoking. This initiative to reduce tobacco use by children recognizes the responsibility that the federal government should take to protect our children from tobacco use.

Finally, 10 years ago as a senior member of the Armed Services Committee, I first introduced legislation aimed at discouraging tobacco use in the military by raising the prices of tobacco products in military commissaries to local prevailing prices. Cigarettes are much cheaper in commissaries and exchanges than they are in the civilian market. In August this year, the Department of Defense (DoD) ordered the sale of tobacco products found in commissaries and exchanges to be sold at local prevailing prices. I am pleased to see that the DoD now agrees that we need to stop sending mixed signals to military personnel about the importance of healthy lifestyles while at the same time deeply discounting tobacco products in military stores.

I commend my colleagues here today for keeping this very important issue alive during this Congress and for leading the effort to continue to address the types of laws and policies that will protect our children from tobacco.

STATEMENT OF U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MARTY MEEHAN

I want to thank Senators Ted Kennedy and Frank Lautenberg for allowing me to submit my testimony before this ad hoc committee hearing on tobacco. I appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important, if unofficial, event.

The new majority, in both the House and Senate chambers, does not believe that the epidemic of youth smoking is an important enough issue to merit an official hearing. Only through the leadership of Senators Kennedy and Lautenberg is today's ad hoc hearing possible. I commend them both for organizing this event.

Nicotine addiction and subsequent tobacco related illnesses are the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Each year, more than 400,000 smokers prematurely die due to tobacco related illnesses. The ranks of smokers, however, are replenished by our nation's children.

Tobacco companies have long targeted and marketed their wares towards America's kids. RJ Reynolds' Joe Camel campaign is only the latest in a string of strategies the tobacco industry has employed to entice young people. The industry is forced to target children because adults, in the face of overwhelming medical and scientific evidence, are not impressionable enough to start using a product that, if used as directed, will kill them.

The tobacco industry is committed to pushing cigarettes and smokeless tobacco product. In fact, each year the industry spends more than \$6 billion on advertising and marketing in the United States. This massive advertising is successful for the industry. Eighty-six percent of underage smokers buy the three most heavily advertised

brands—Marlboros, Camels and Newports. Moreover, ninety-one percent of six year-olds identify Joe Camel as a symbol of smoking.

As a result, 3,000 children a day, convinced through a combination of peer pressure, advertising and popular culture, start smoking. 1,000 of these youngsters will ultimately die from tobacco related illnesses.

President Clinton has taken a historic move in directing the Food and Drug Administration to enact the first-ever program to protect children from tobacco. The FDA has concluded that cigarettes and smokeless tobacco are delivery devices for nicotine, a drug that causes addiction and other significant pharmacological effects.

The FDA's regulations, which are intended to reduce underage tobacco use by fifty percent over the next seven years, include long overdue restrictions on advertising and marketing, along with an industry sponsored tobacco control campaign.

I strongly support President Clinton's heroic leadership on this most important issue. Unfortunately, the tobacco industry has many allies here on Capitol Hill who will most likely launch an effort to derail the FDA's regulations.

According to recent reports, the tobacco industry, in just the first six months on 1996, has spent more than \$15 million lobbying Congress, the White House and federal agencies. Moreover, campaign donations, both soft and hard, are up dramatically, as the industry prepares to launch a most expensive offense against federal efforts to control youth tobacco use.

While the industry may have the financial wherewithal to spend millions of dollars to influence legislators and advertise their misleading messages, public opinion seems to have permanently shifted against Big Tobacco. Through internal documents and the brave testimony of former employees, two of who are here today, decades of duplicity on behalf of the Big Tobacco have been exposed and etched into the collective consciousness of the American people.

Those of us in Congress who support President Clinton's actions on tobacco have a responsibility to not only herald these regulations but also hold the line against industry efforts to water them down. Today's hearing should reinforce the idea that the FDA's regulations, and jurisdiction, is necessary to protect future generations of American children. Once again, I applaud the leadership of Senators Kennedy and Lautenberg on this issue and I look forward to working with both of them in the future.●

SALUTE TO "ODYSSEY OF THE MIND" PARTICIPANTS FROM BETHANY, CONNECTICUT

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a group of remarkable young people from my home State of Connecticut. For the past 4 years, students from Bethany, a small, rural community in Connecticut, have participated in an international problem-solving competition called Odyssey of the Mind. This competition gives children in grades kindergarten through 12 the opportunity to develop their problem-solving and team-building skills by challenging students to develop unique ways to solve one of five long-term problems. A team spends countless hours together to develop and perfect a unique solution to the problem set before them. Their efforts are judged in a state competition

and the winning team is asked to represent their state or country at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

Earlier this year, two groups of students from Bethany, CT, won first place in their respective categories at Connecticut's Odyssey of the Mind State Finals and traveled to Iowa to represent the State of Connecticut at the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals.

Connecticut is very proud of Rosa Allison, David Berv, Ian Stebinger, Amanda Kaletsky, Amanda Sherman and Grace Menzies, who made up a team that won a gold medal in the Connecticut Odyssey of the Mind Competition 3 years in a row. I would also like to salute the hard work and dedication of Joshua Gewirtz, Elizabeth Cowan, Matt Voloshin, Jane Ballerini, Peter Geloso, Kerrilee Hunter and Paula Rashkow who also represented Connecticut at the Odyssey of the Mind Finals this year. In addition, I congratulate the students' coaches for a job well done.

Clearly, these young students are fine examples of what can be accomplished when people put aside their differences and work together toward a common goal. Their creativity, hard work, perseverance and willingness to take risks remind us that Yankee ingenuity is still alive in Connecticut. I salute these young people and am confident that we will all be hearing more about these exceptional students in the future.

COMMEMORATION OF LAWSUIT ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, today I want to acknowledge a group of citizens in West Virginia who are speaking out on the issue of lawsuit abuse in an effort to serve the public.

In many areas of West Virginia, local citizens have volunteered their time to start Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse groups and to initiate public awareness campaigns in their areas about what they see as the problems of lawsuit abuse.

The CALA groups focus on education. These citizens are speaking out about an issue that has statewide and national implications. The costs of lawsuits can include higher costs for consumer products, higher medical expenses, higher taxes, and fewer jobs due to lost business expansion and forgone product development.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse has a straightforward goal. They want to help the public prevent unnecessary lawsuits that do more harm than good.

West Virginians are not the type of people to walk away from a problem. When we see something that's clearly wrong, we work to make people aware of it, and we try to make it right. CALA members believe that they have the opportunity to reform our laws so that the legal system is more fair, more effective, and more sensible to serve everyone's interests.

These nonprofit groups have raised local funds to run educational media

announcements and are speaking to local organizations and citizen groups across the State to raise public awareness on the lawsuit abuse issue.

While the local groups have thousands of supporters, there are also a few individuals who should be recognized for their leadership and for dedicating countless volunteer hours. These individuals are: Tom Harriman of Kingwood, founding chairman of CALA of northern West Virginia; Jim Thomas of Charleston and Jack Klim of Huntington, cofounders and spokespersons of CALA of southern West Virginia; and Ken Lowe of Shepherdstown, founding chairman of CALA of eastern West Virginia.

Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse groups have declared September 22 through September 28, 1996, to be Lawsuit Abuse Awareness Week in West Virginia. I want to commend all of the individuals who are involved in Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse for their dedication and commitment to this important citizen education project.

As someone who has been a leader in the battle of product liability reform, I continue to hope for the kind of education, dialog, and consensus-building clearly needed to address problems in our legal process that hurt consumers, victims, and the private sector. I encourage CALA to continue raising these issues and promoting solutions that ensure justice and improve the legal system. West Virginia and the country as a whole need informed, educated, and dedicated citizens to help elected officials address serious issues and achieve reforms when necessary.●

POSTAL SERVICE IN GEORGIA

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, as we complete the appropriations process for fiscal year 1997, I would like to take this opportunity to make my colleagues aware of the unacceptable manner in which the Postal Service has operated in a matter involving an address change request in my home State of Georgia.

Mr. President, for 25 years, residents of an area informally known as Centerville, GA, located in Gwinnett County, have been trying to work with the Postal Service for a facility that is closer to their homes, and an address that reflects the location in which they live. Although these Georgians reside in Gwinnett County, their address is dictated by the Postal Service is Lithonia, GA—a town that is approximately 15 miles away, and is located in a different county.

Not only are those citizens having problems with their mail delivery, such as stolen and misdelivered mail, their address designations has created great confusion in dealing with everyday household issues such as emergency service, insurance, property taxes, sales taxes and parcel delivery. Even small matters, such as ordering a take-out pizza, often result in unnecessary confusion and inconvenience when giving addresses. In addition, a round trip