

work hard together, this Congress can achieve these goals, and both Republicans and Democrats will deserve a real vote of thanks from the American people.

SENATE DEMOCRATS' LEADERSHIP BILLS

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to commend the Democratic leader for the package of initiatives he has developed on behalf of Senate Democrats. Most of these proposals came out of the 1996 Families First agenda. I was proud to be involved in that attempt to meet the real needs of everyday Americans and I am proud to be a cosponsor of these bills today.

The Education for the 21st Century Act, S. 12, continues Democrats' historic commitment to education. Federal support for education is one of the best investments our Nation can make to ensure a prosperous future. The bill would provide tuition assistance, restore the student loan interest deduction, subsidize State and local bond issues used to finance school construction and repair, fund the Parents as Teachers Program to assist parents who want to help their children become successful readers, and create a technology literacy challenge fund to catalyze and leverage State, local, and private efforts to increase technology literacy among our Nation's schoolchildren.

The Children's Health Coverage Act, S. 13, would help working families purchase private health insurance for their children. Although Senator KENNEDY and I have a bill which uses a subsidy approach rather than a tax credit approach, our bills are fundamentally similar. Both would provide assistance to children 18 and under and pregnant women to purchase private health insurance, both would provide a comprehensive benefits package, and both would provide assistance on a sliding scale to the working parents of uninsured children. I look forward to working with Senator DASCHLE, my fellow Democrats, and my Republican colleagues to pass a bill this year to provide children the health insurance they need and working parents the peace of mind they deserve.

The Retirement Security Act, S. 14, includes a wide range of proposals designed to help Americans prepare for a secure retirement. These would address the fact that too many Americans lack pension coverage by covering more workers under existing plans, creating new retirement savings options for millions of Americans, and encouraging more businesses to establish plans and more employees to participate in them. The bill would improve pension access and coverage, strengthen pension security, promote pension portability, and increase equity for women.

The Youth Violence, Crime and Drug Abuse Control Act, S. 15, would build on the success of the 1994 Crime Act and other crime fighting initiatives en-

acted during President Clinton's first term. I am proud to have been a leader in securing funding in the 1994 Crime Act for placing 100,000 new cops on the streets of America's communities. Thanks to the presence of the newly funded police officers, a fully funded Violence Against Women Act, and the Brady law—which has prevented more than 60,000 felons, fugitives, and stalkers from purchasing handguns, violent crime is lower than at any time since 1990. This bill balances the need to target and punish violent, young criminals with proven drug prevention programs. We would put 25,000 more police officers on the streets by extending the COPS Program for 2 years, and we would extend the Violence Against Women Act to provide shelter for 400,000 more battered women and their children, increase Federal penalties for juveniles by raising the mandatory release age from 21 to 26, increase penalties for gang violence, and reauthorize the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program.

Senator DASCHLE deserves our thanks for his leadership in spotlighting these issues of education, children's health care, retirement security, and youth violence that are so critical to the future of our Nation and to the well-being of the American people. He and his staff are to be commended for drafting these bills to address the issues. I look forward to working with Senator DASCHLE and other Senators on both sides of the aisle to pass legislation to meet these compelling needs.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. DORGAN pertaining to the introduction of legislation are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

SERIES OF INITIATIVES

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I intend to discuss at a later time a series of initiatives that Senator DASCHLE discussed in brief form dealing with health care, education, pensions, and a number of other issues, including discussing another issue that is important to me, a piece of legislation that Senator DASCHLE and I and others are introducing dealing with some changes with respect to agricultural programs and family farmers in our country.

I see others are seeking the floor. I yield the floor at this time.

I would like to reserve the remainder of the Democratic time today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority has reserved its time. The Senator from new Mexico may seek time.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask that I be permitted to speak for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE REPUBLICAN LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, fellow Senators, I rise to compliment the Republican leader on the announcement today of the first Republican legislative agenda for the 105th Congress. I believe that most Americans would support the principles and the ideas contained in these 10 pieces of legislation. I also believe that within the Senate itself there is a compelling majority that will support these 10 proposals. From my standpoint, I support them all, but I do reserve the right in two or three instances to change some of the things that are in the bills. But in no way does it minimize my admiration of and respect for the leadership for putting these bills forth, and the Republican conference and the hard work they put into coming up with these ideas and these basic premises.

I would like to just run through each one quickly with a few thoughts of my own, and then yield the floor to my friend, the new Senator from Wyoming.

The balanced budget constitutional amendment: I do not think there is any question that that piece of legislation speaks to the wishes of a huge percentage of Americans. I would not be surprised if as many as 70 percent or 75 percent of Americans believe that we ought to build into our institutions a mandate—unless we have a war where we cannot abide by a balanced budget—that we ought to produce a balanced budget every year.

Frankly, I have been working on budgets long enough to on the one hand be pulled by those who say, "Why don't we do it ourselves? Why do we need the force in effect of a constitutional amendment?" I guess the fact that we have all been working on it so long and can't get it done—and that when we look across the industrial nations, all we find is that with the passage of time instead of spending less, all governments spend more; instead of getting their deficits and debts under control there is growing concern, even in Europe, among most of our industrial friends there, that such things as pension plans and deferred obligations are going to bankrupt their countries. We are doing fairly well. But I do not think anybody ought to misconstrue the trend lines in terms of our current deficits to think that it is going to be easy to keep the deficit under control.

In the next couple of weeks the Budget Committee will have a series of hearings to show what the next century is going to look like and what the major problems are, as the President

speaks of a "bridge," what we ought to be carrying across that bridge so we don't have bigger problems rather than a better life in the next century.

The balanced budget amendment's time has come. There are some who will say, "What happens when you need to spend more money and there is not enough room in this budget," such as unemployment compensation during a recession. Let me say that this amendment is very, very simple in that respect. If that is a serious problem, as serious as some would say, then all you need to do is get 60 votes. You don't have to pass any resolutions declaring emergencies. You just need 60 votes instead of 51 to let those expenditures take place. I believe that is good enough. I think history will reveal that we have had caps that are similar to this, to this constitutional amendment, on parts of our budget and that when we have been confronted by the need to increase something like unemployment compensation there has been far more than 60 votes to go ahead and break the caps because there is somewhat of a countercyclical economic necessity that is forthcoming.

So, from this Senator's standpoint, I hope that the early count of Senators who back home during the campaign said they were for a constitutional amendment, plus those who voted heretofore, continues to add up—and that the number clearly when you do that is there are plenty of votes to pass it—that they will not change their minds based upon Washington, DC talk—because most heard from their people, and I hope that we will all live up to that and get this job done.

Safe and affordable schools is our second one. All I can say about that is I am not sure that any of us know the extent to which we ought to be for change in our education system. But I can tell you one anomaly that is rather frightening. All you have to do is go home and talk to people in the business sector that want to employ people from your State of Maine, or my State of New Mexico, and who continue to tell us, "Well, the people we need don't have the skills required. They don't have the right training." I guess in the broadest sense they are saying they are not educated for the workplace.

Frankly, I hope that we could sooner rather than later go beyond these few principles in this bill and come up with some concepts that would push our current institutions that educate our young people—and even our adults—to force them to be more responsive to the needs of our people who are looking for jobs.

I ask for another 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator still has 4 minutes remaining.

Mr. DOMENICI. I thought you were reporting that I didn't have any time left. Excuse me. I still ask for 5 additional minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DOMENICI. Madam President, let me suggest that while the United

States for college, community colleges, public education, and kindergarten through 12 continues to spend more and more, everywhere we look there are huge numbers of Americans who are not well enough educated for the jobs of today. Frankly, we continue to pour money into vocational institutions and vocational education; we put the strings on that so we can put money into our public education, albeit very small amounts. But somehow or another it seems that the time has come to ask the institutions which we currently spend our money on to see if they can't change their way of doing business a little bit so they may be more the engine of training and skills improvement rather than us having to fund new institutions and new ways of doing them.

Family tax relief: This Senator's only comment is that every single item in there are very exciting items. And they are all probably good for either American families, or the American economy, or are motivated by fairness. In that context, I support them. In the context of how much we will be able to afford, I reserve the right to decide. We may not be able to afford all the enumerated items in the bill. But obviously, we will have to look at that, and I want to make that comment in the RECORD.

The workplace act I think is an exciting piece of legislation. I support it. I hope we can get the message out as to what is in the bill and what is not, for some who are already talking about what they believe the bill does, but they are really talking about things that are not part of this legislation.

Product liability reform has come under some great leadership in the Senate. We have already done a lot of work on that bill, but we cannot get it passed through for the President's signature. I hope we get there.

For the partial-birth abortion ban, I believe there is a compelling majority of support for the bill. The question is whether we have enough to override a Presidential veto. I have heard words from the White House, but more importantly from Senators like Senator DASCHLE saying maybe we ought to work something out here, which leads me to believe that there are even more Senators who deplore the partial-birth abortion technique than those who voted for it. I, too, hope we can get something done there.

Let me just quickly go through the Missile Defense Act. Obviously, there are some who would not put this in the top 10, but there are many who are concerned enough about it, and I support it wholeheartedly, in an effort to solve the problems that are stated by that legislation.

The Superfund cleanup is long overdue. It is now good to know that Senator CHAFEE and Senator SMITH of New Hampshire support a measure that will reform Superfund. And reform means that we will put more of the billions that will be spent during the next 10

years into actual cleanup instead of into court cases and litigation. I think that is the motivation and that is what we are trying to do. I think that is very positive.

The Paycheck Protection Act speaks for itself. And then I will go to the last one, the Violent Juvenile Offenders Act. I am very pleased that many of the provisions of the legislation I introduced last year, after numerous hearings in New Mexico and a great deal of input from our judges and from probation officials, are in this bill. I think it is obvious that if any part of our criminal justice system has fallen apart, it is the juvenile justice system. For the most part, in most of our States, the juvenile justice system has not kept up with the times. It does not meet today's challenges, and I believe we are going to sensitize our States to this by offering to give them more financial support if they will modernize their systems. I believe this bill will lead them to hold more teenagers accountable for their actions and make more public the activities of the courts, rather than to hide their activities. They also should make juveniles more accountable, even for smaller offenses, so they do not wait until they have committed the equivalent of 10 or 15 felonies before something is done to try to help the teenager.

Many of these things are encapsulated in the bill. There are some things that I am not sure ultimately, after detailed hearings, are going to be as good as they sound. We are trying to reform the existing law. The existing law is rigid and in many cases harms juvenile justice at home in our States.

I am not sure that people are aware of it, but we have mandates in the Federal juvenile justice law, and one of them is called sight and sound separation. It has gotten way out of hand. I am not sure we should do away with the mandates entirely, but we have had a situation in New Mexico where because one correctional facility would have had the same kitchen for both adults and teenagers, the State was told that it could not house teenagers there. I guess they expanded the mandate to sight, sound, and smell, or maybe the flavor that will come from using the same kitchen. But I do not know how that had much to do with whether you ought to keep the teenagers in that facility.

Perhaps we are underfunding the OJJP provisions, we are cutting those a little bit, and we ought to look at that. There are a couple of other things we ought to include, but for the most part we are moving in the right direction, and I am very pleased to be a cosponsor and essentially had a lot to do with what we put in that bill.

I believe I am close to the time the Senate has granted me to speak, and I thank the Senate for the time and yield the floor.

Mr. LAUTENBERG addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Madam President, just so our new colleague from Wyoming understands, this was the order that was agreed to under unanimous consent, and therefore, since he is waiting, I want to explain that this was not just being discourteous; it had been set that way. The junior Senator from Wyoming will get used to some of those things off in the corner. He may not like it, but it works out.

(The remarks of Mr. LAUTENBERG pertaining to the introduction of S. 18 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

DISAPPOINTMENT WITH INTRODUCTION OF SUPERFUND BILL

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Madam President, while I am on the floor, I want to express some disappointment at the introduction today by my friend and colleague, Senator CHAFEE, of a comprehensive bill amending our Federal hazardous waste cleanup law, better known as Superfund.

This bill was introduced without consultation with any of the Democrats or with the administration. My staff, and those of the ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, did not see a copy of this bill until late this morning. If we are to make reforms to Superfund this year—and it was hoped we would do it last year and the year before—it is critical that we work together in a bipartisan manner.

Today's bill introduction is not a positive first step toward that bipartisanship. Enacting any Superfund legislation this year is going to require Members of both parties in the House of Representatives and in the Senate to work together. It will also require all of us to work with the President and EPA Administrator Carol Browner.

In addition, Madam President, it would require us to appreciate that times have changed since the debate over Superfund reauthorization began in the late 1980's. The administration has made wide-ranging administrative proposals that have made a real difference, and this is not the same Superfund program of years past.

We have learned a lot. We have improved its processing. We have reduced the possibility of heavy litigation costs. I want to be clear, I support changes to Superfund that would speed cleanups, reduce litigation, increase equity, save money, and protect the health and environment of those who live near Superfund sites. But, Madam President, it is important to do this right. We should not be shifting costs from polluters to taxpayers, and the President has made it very clear that he will not abide by that either.

So, Madam President, I hope that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will closely examine the administrative reforms already undertaken before moving forward on changes to the Superfund program. I

hold this up as an example of what is in here, introduced this morning without consultation. This is not a way to get ourselves a bipartisan kickoff to this very important reauthorization program.

I look forward, as I have for many years, to working with our distinguished colleague, Senator CHAFEE, and Senator BOB SMITH from New Hampshire and others, to find common ground. I want to reauthorize Superfund, but I would like to do it in a way that is fair to taxpayers and in a way that is going to work.

I yield back the time on the Democrats' side reserved. How much time is left?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time is controlled by the minority. There is 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I yield back the time at this point that I have not used and reserve for our side the remaining minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FORD. Madam President, the distinguished Senator from Wyoming wishes to speak, and I don't want to get in his way, but I will need more than 5 minutes, so I will wait until others are through so I can get my time on the floor in addition to the 5 minutes. So I alert the Chair to that. Thank you.

Mr. ENZI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise in support of Senate Joint Resolution 1, the balanced budget amendment. I specifically chose the balanced budget amendment as the focus of my first statement in this hallowed Chamber. I chose it because the need for a balanced budget is the most important issue facing all of America today. Without a balanced budget, our children will be saddled with a mountain of debt. Our children and grandchildren will be left with no hope of fulfilling their dreams and aspirations. Our Nation will be weakened and vulnerable.

I know how to balance a budget. I'm an accountant. I have balanced budgets as a family man, a shoe store owner, a mayor, and a legislator. You and I know how easy it is to spend money. We know it's easier to say "yes" to programs than "no." There is a constituency for every single program. But I have had to say "no." We have a duty and a responsibility to our communities, our families and our children to live within our means. Right now we are spending more money than we are taking in. Overspending is a prescription for disaster. Almost any school child understands that if you spend more than your take in—you go broke.

Because of the Federal Government's ability to print money, we can easily feel there are no spending limits. How can we pay the bills of a nation when we reach the point where interest payments on our debt exceed all the revenue? That scenario is possible. We are

now on that course. Without restraint, that could happen even at an impossible 100 percent tax rate on the citizens of this great Nation. Governments go broke when they cannot afford the interest.

The Federal Government must learn to live within its means. If we were not saddled with such enormous debt, we would have additional revenues to invest in the people and we could reduce the tax burden for every working man and woman in this country. Many States have a constitutional provision to balance the budget. Those States balance their budgets. It is time for us to require ourselves to balance the budget just as they now require the States to do.

History shows we cannot balance the budget with willpower alone. It is time to look at the hard, cold facts. We now have a \$5.2 trillion dollar Federal debt. The deficit looms so large. Many Americans voted for candidates based on their stand on this single issue. A balanced budget amendment was the key to voter confidence. Failure to support this issue will diminish that confidence and could lead to the defeat of other candidates in 2 years.

The balance budget amendment would help end the frustrating impasse between Congress and the President by requiring that we agree on a budget that is balanced. A constitutional requirement will remove from debate the variable of how long it will take to balance the budget. The argument about whether we should balance it at all will be removed from the discussion. All Americans know that we have to work within the parameters of fiscal sanity. The balanced budget amendment will focus our effort and our attention.

We have not had a balanced Federal budget since 1969. This fact alone illustrates the difficulty of balancing a budget without an amendment. By failing to balance the budget, we are giving in to the whims of the moment. Without a balanced budget we abandon the ideals of self-control, discipline, and hard work. When we do not balance a budget, we lead by the example of selfishness, recklessness and folly. We condone living beyond our means.

Those opposed to a balanced budget amendment fear it would result in drastic cuts to programs they deem necessary. That is a very shortsighted view of the world. Only by balancing the Federal budget, however, can we guarantee long-term security to any Federal program, including Social Security. By balancing the budget, we do a great service for all Americans. We especially serve those living on fixed income retirement programs. When we pass and the States ratify this amendment, everyone will benefit. Interest rates will decrease. Inflation will be held in check. Business will have true growth. Jobs will increase.

We need to pass this amendment with no gimmickry, no smoke and no mirrors. Any proposal to exempt Social Security would rule out the possibility