

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL ACT

• Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with Senator BOXER as a cosponsor of the Domestic Violence Identification and Referral Act. With the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in the 1994 crime bill, Congress addressed the need to educate law enforcement, judges, and prosecutors about how to deal with situations of domestic violence. However, in this important piece of legislation, Congress overlooked a major resource in the battle against domestic violence—our health care professionals. Doctors, nurses, and others in health professions are often the first to see the effects of battering and are often in the best position to stop the cycle of violence before it goes any further.

While domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women, many doctors, and nurses are unaware or unsure of the symptoms, treatment, and means of preventing domestic violence. In 1992, a Surgeon General's report cited a study showing 35 percent of the women who visit hospital emergency rooms were there because of ongoing abuse. Additionally, the study found that only 5 percent of the abused women were actually identified as such. A 1995 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* [JAMA] determined that little had changed since the earlier study and that doctors still failed to identify women who were injured as a result of domestic violence.

In a June 17, 1992, issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* Dr. Richard F. Jones III, the then-president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists [ACOG], related how for years he had missed the obvious signs of physical abuse in women patients. He had been asking the wrong questions and failed to elicit the true cause of their injuries. Only when he started asking these women directly if they were victims of physical abuse did the truth emerge.

Similarly, according to an article in a November 1995 issue of *American Medicine*, 60 percent of those graduating from medical schools felt that an insufficient amount of attention within the medical school curriculum was given to the issue of family and domestic violence.

Since Senator BOXER, Representative MORELLA, and I introduced the Domestic Violence Identification and Referral Act in 1992, the medical community has taken many steps to increase outreach and education on the issue of domestic violence. However, as these studies show, the fact is that when it comes to domestic violence, the bruises and abrasions get dressed, but the cause goes unaddressed. Doctors miss the signs of domestic violence early on and then often miss them again when they have become catastrophic.

The Domestic Violence Identification and Referral Act provides incentives for medical schools to provide signifi-

cant training in identifying, treating and referring victims of domestic violence. The legislation will give preference in awarding grants under the health professions education titles of the Public Health Services Act to schools that have incorporated training in domestic violence into their curriculum.

The title VII and title VIII grant programs, singled out in the bill, are demonstration grants and makeup but a small part of the hundreds of millions of Federal dollars that go to medical schools for state-of-the-art medical education. It seems to me to be self-evident that if we give medical schools this sort of funding, they should at least give some time to addressing the No. 1 cause of injury to women.

In drafting this legislation we worked closely with doctors, nurses, medical schools, and domestic violence groups. The Association of American Medical Colleges, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Women's Association, the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, AYUDA, NOW Legal Defense Fund, American Nurses Association, National League For Nursing, Association of Reproductive Health Professionals, and the Family Violence Prevention Fund, among others, have voiced their support for this legislation.

I thank the many groups that assisted in drafting this legislation and Senator BOXER for her leadership in this matter. I urge the Congress to pass this important piece of legislation this year.

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Senator WYDEN has been added as a cosponsor to S. 101, the Domestic Violence Identification and Referral Act.

Senator WYDEN is the original author of this legislation, of which I am proud to be the Senate sponsor. He wrote it while he was a member of the House of Representatives, and has been the driving force behind this very important legislation. I was honored in the 103d Congress, when he asked me to introduce the Senate companion version.

Since Senator WYDEN's election to the Senate last year, we have worked hand-in-hand on this legislation. I look forward to working together in the 105th Congress to finally bring this bill to passage. •

NATIONAL CHARACTER COUNTS WEEK

• Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to support the National Character Counts Week resolution. Senator DOMENICI has introduced this resolution, which declares October 19 through 25, 1997, as National Character Counts Week, on behalf of myself and the bipartisan membership of the Senate Character Counts Group. I especially want to thank Senator DOMENICI for his continuing good leadership on Character Counts.

The national Character Counts Coalition, an alliance of hundreds of groups,

communities, and individuals, was born out of a meeting of some of our country's best thinkers and doers in Colorado less than 5 years ago. These folks had many of the concerns that I know a lot of us here in the Senate share about the wrong direction that many of our young people seem to be headed.

Character Counts calls on all of us, educators, church and youth leaders, community and business leaders, and most importantly parents, to reinforce six basic values, or pillars of character. These values are so important and basic that I do not think anyone could question them. They are: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

I have two young children, so I know firsthand how difficult it is for kids to make the right choices when they are constantly being bombarded by messages from our popular culture that it is cool to drink alcohol or smoke or use vulgar language. To counteract these messages, it is more important than ever that we instill in our young people the integrity and good character to stand up for what is right. Children are not born with good character. They learn by example, and if they have good role models all around them, I am confident they will make correct choices for themselves.

As evidence that children are eager, even hungry, to do the right thing if given the proper reinforcement, I want to hold up the story of 11-year-old Herbert Tarvin. Many of you may remember hearing on the news about the Brinks armored car that crashed in January of this year in one of Miami, Florida's poorest neighborhoods. Herbert was walking to school that day when he passed the wrecked truck, and like many of the adults all around him, he gave into the temptation to grab some of the money from the truck. Herbert's newfound riches totaled 85 cents. In all, some \$300,000 in cash and coins was stolen from the truck.

Fortunately, when Herbert got to school, he had a teacher who cared enough to urge her students to turn over any money they had taken. Herbert's conscience prompted him to turn his 85-cent windfall over to his teacher, who returned it to the Brinks Co. Herbert says he knows he should not have taken the money to begin with because his mom and teacher have taught him better than that, but I am proud of him for ultimately returning the money.

Many of the adults around Herbert did not act so honorably. After weeks of public pleas and investigations, only about \$300 of the \$300,000 taken from the truck has been returned. Even so, this story is heartening to me because I think it shows that children want to do the right thing when faced with difficult situations. As Herbert's mom and teacher have done, we all have a role in ensuring that all children are given the ethical tools they need to make difficult choices in today's world. Quite simply, that is what the Character Counts Program is all about.

I have found that young people in North Dakota are excited about Character Counts. Nearly a year ago, I brought together a group of about three dozen North Dakotans, including several young people, to introduce them to the Character Counts Program. Out of that meeting was born a Character Counts initiative in North Dakota, under the leadership of 4-H youth specialist Geri Bosch.

In the year since then, Geri and her army of college- and high school-aged 4-H youth ambassadors have been traveling throughout North Dakota to share the Character Counts concept with children, youth, and adults alike, and Character Counts is spreading like wildfire in my State. In December alone, nearly 200 concerned adults participated in Character Counts training so that they could take Character Counts back to their communities. Even more exciting, more than 1,000 young people in North Dakota have participated in the Character Counts Program directly in some way throughout the last year, and countless other kids have been indirectly influenced for the better through the teachers, youth leaders, clergy members, and other concerned citizens who touch their lives daily.

I have been proud to play some small role in supporting Character Counts in North Dakota and our country. Through these kinds of efforts, we can build a better future for our kids, and I want to again pledge my continued help and support for teaching the pillars of good character. •

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 447

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senate bill 447, introduced earlier today by Senator NICKLES, be placed on the calendar.

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

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRA- TION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 25, Senate Resolution 56.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 56) designating March 25, 1997, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DOMENICI. I ask unanimous consent the resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to recon-

sider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 56) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 56

Whereas the ancient Greeks developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was invested in the people;

Whereas the Founding Fathers of the United States of America drew heavily upon the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming our representative democracy;

Whereas the founders of the modern Greek state modeled their government after that of the United States in an effort to best imitate their ancient democracy;

Whereas Greece is one of the only three nations in the world, beyond the former British Empire, that has been allied with the United States in every major international conflict this century;

Whereas the heroism displayed in the historic world War II Battle of Crete epitomized Greece's sacrifice for freedom and democracy as it presented the Axis land war with its first major setback and set off a chain of events which significantly affected the outcome of World War II.

Whereas these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples;

Whereas March 25, 1997 marks the 176th anniversary of the beginning of the revolution which freed the Greek people from the Ottoman Empire; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Greek people, and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which our two great nations were born: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That March 25, 1997 is designated as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of Senate Resolution 59, and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 59) designating the month of March of each year as "Irish American Heritage Month."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege to join 50 of my colleagues as sponsors of this Senate resolution to designate the month of March each year as "Irish-American Heritage Month."

Irish-Americans have contributed to every aspect of American life—business and labor, agriculture and industry, education and the arts, science and religion, at every level of government, and in all aspects of public service.

From the days of the earliest settlers to our shores, immigrants from Ireland have found hope and opportunity and new lives in America. They powered our industrial revolution. They took jobs as laborers. They dug the canals. They built the railroads that took America to the West. Even today, it is said that under every railroad tie, an Irishman is buried.

In all of these ways and many more, Irish-Americans have contributed immensely to our Nation and they continue to do so. In a very real sense, their greatest legacy is our modern Nation.

Today, over 44 million Americans are of Irish descent. They are proud of America and proud of their Irish heritage, and it is fitting that we pass this resolution honoring this extraordinary aspect of our history.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and its preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating thereto be placed in the RECORD in the appropriate place as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 59) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, are as follows:

S. RES. 59

Whereas by 1776 nearly 300,000 persons had emigrated to the United States from Ireland;

Whereas following the Revolutionary War victory of Washington's troops at Yorktown, a French Major General reported that Congress and America owed its existence, and possibly its preservation, to the support of the Irish;

Whereas at least 8 signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin;

Whereas more than 200 Irish Americans have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor;

Whereas 19 Presidents of the United States proudly claim Irish heritage, including the first president, George Washington;

Whereas 44 million American citizens are of Irish descent; and

Whereas the Irish and their descendants have contributed greatly to the enrichment of all aspects of life in the United States, including military and government service, science, education, art, agriculture, business, industry, and athletics: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of March of each year as "Irish American Heritage Month"; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation designating the month of March of each year as "Irish American Heritage Month" and calling on the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.