

(e) SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION.—Section 399D(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280d(h)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting “including maternal and child health” before “mental”;

(B) by striking “treatment programs”; and

(C) by striking “and the State agency responsible for administering public maternal and child health services” and inserting “, the State agency responsible for administering alcohol and drug programs, the State lead agency, and the State Interagency Coordinating Council under part H of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act”; and

(2) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “when the child can be cared for at home without endangering the child’s safety”.

(f) REPORTS.—Section 399D(i)(6) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280d(k)(6)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (E), by adding “and” after the semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) the number of children described in subparagraph (C) for whom the permanent plan is other than family reunification.”;

(g) EVALUATIONS.—Section 399D(l) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280d(l)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “, including increased participation in work or employment-related activities and decreased participation in welfare programs”; and

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “children whose” and inserting “children who can be cared for at home without endangering their safety and whose”; and

(3) in paragraph (6), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “if the reunification would not endanger the child”.

(h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 399D(m) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280d(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by adding “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking paragraphs (4) and (5).

(i) DATA COLLECTION.—Section 399D(n) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280d(n)) is amended by adding at the end the following: “The periodic report shall include a quantitative estimate of the prevalence of alcohol and drug problems in families involved in the child welfare system, the barriers to treatment and prevention services facing these families, and policy recommendations for removing the identified barriers, including training for child welfare workers.”.

(j) DEFINITION.—Section 399D(o)(2)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280d(o)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “dangerous”.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 399D(p) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280d(p)) is amended to read as follows:

“(p) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 1999.”.

(l) GRANTS FOR TRAINING AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 399D of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280d) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (f);

(2) by striking subsection (k);

(3) by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (g), (h), (i), (j), (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p) as subsections (e) through (o), respectively;

(4) by inserting after subsection (c), the following:

“(d) TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, CHILD WELFARE PROVIDERS, AND OTHER PERSONNEL.—The Secretary may make a grant under subsection (a) for the training of health care professionals, child welfare providers, and other personnel who provide services to vulnerable children and families. Such training shall be to assist professionals in recognizing the drug and alcohol problems of their clients and to enhance their skills in identifying and obtaining substance abuse prevention and treatment resources.”;

(5) in subsection (k)(2) (as so redesignated), by striking “(h)” and inserting “(i)”;

(6) in paragraphs (3)(E) and (5) of subsection (m) (as so redesignated), by striking “(d)” and inserting “(e)”.

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 796. A bill to reduce gun trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

THE GUN KINGPIN DEATH PENALTY ACT OF 1997

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I rise today, on behalf of myself and the distinguished Senator from California, Senator FEINSTEIN, to introduce the Gun Kingpin Death Penalty Act of 1997. I hope that our colleagues will soon join us in sending a clear and strong signal to our most violent gunrunners—your actions will no longer be tolerated.

Mr. President, the fight against gun violence is a long-term, many-staged process. We have already succeeded in enacting the Brady bill and the ban on devastating assault weapons. Last year, even in the midst of what many consider a hostile Congress, we told domestic violence offenders that they could no longer own a gun.

And these laws have been effective: 186,000 prohibited individuals have already been denied a handgun due to Brady background checks—70 percent of these people were convicted or indicted felons. Traces of assault weapons have plummeted since the ban, and prices have gone up. And our law enforcement officers are no longer dying at the hands of criminals armed with assault weapons.

As I said, we have been successful. But we cannot be satisfied with victories in battle—we must use every avenue possible to win the war against gun violence.

Mr. President, it is for this reason that I rose just a few weeks ago with Senator DURBIN to introduce a new prosecutorial tool in the fight to stop gun traffickers—the Gun Kingpin Penalty Act of 1997. That bill would institute a sliding scale of mandatory minimum penalties for the worst gunrunners, and I hope we can debate it soon.

But we must also address the problem of the most violent and dangerous offenders—those who commit murder in furtherance of their gun trafficking crimes. So I rise again today to issue a

new challenge—send a message to murderous gunrunners that their violence must stop.

Our Gun Kingpin Death Penalty Act of 1997, which is modeled after the Drug Kingpin Death Penalty legislation already enacted into law, provides that any criminal who commits murder or successfully orders a murder committed during the course of trafficking in more than 25 firearms may receive life in prison or the death penalty. This provision gives Federal prosecutors one more tool in the fight against gun trafficking, and sends out a warning to all violent gunrunners—think twice before you act.

Mr. President, when I rose with Senator DURBIN last month to introduce the first in this two-bill attack on gunrunners, I cited recent numbers gathered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms which clearly demonstrate what many of us already knew all too well—several key highways in this country have become so-called firearm freeways—pipelines for merchants of death who deal in illegal firearms.

We learned from the ATF data that in 1996, New Jersey exported fewer guns used in crimes, per capita, than any other State—less than one gun per 100,000 residents, or 75 total guns. In contrast, Mississippi exported 29 of these guns per capita last year.

Meanwhile, an incredible number of guns used to commit crimes in New Jersey last year came from out-of-State—944 guns were imported and used to commit crimes compared to only 75 exported—a net import of 869 illegal guns used to commit crimes against the people of New Jersey.

In fact, the top six exporters of illegal guns used to commit crimes in New Jersey supplied 62 percent of the guns, 585, and only one of those six States—North Carolina—has strong gun control laws.

This represents a one-way street—guns come from States with lax gun laws straight to States—like New Jersey—with strong laws.

New Jersey has long been proud to have some of the toughest gun control laws in the Nation. But for far too long, the courageous efforts of New Jersey citizens in enacting these tough laws have been weakened by out-of-State gunrunners who treat our State like their own personal retail outlet.

It is clear that New Jersey’s strong gun control laws offer criminals little choice but to import their guns from States with weak laws. We must act on a Federal level to send a clear message that this cannot continue and will not be tolerated. And we must send an equally clear message that gunrunners who commit murder risk the ultimate of penalties.

Finally, Mr. President, I remind my colleagues that we cannot rest satisfied simply because we have succeeded in the past. The problem of illegal gun traffickers will not just go away, and we cannot stand by and watch as innocent men, women, and children die at

the hands of criminals armed with these guns. I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I ask that the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 796

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Gun Kingpin Death Penalty Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. DEATH PENALTY FOR CERTAIN FIREARMS TRAFFICKING VIOLATIONS.

Section 924 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(p) In addition to any other penalties set forth in this title, any person engaging in an offense under paragraph (1)(A) or (3) of section 922(a) that involves 25 or more firearms, who intentionally kills or counsels, commands, induces, procures, or causes the intentional killing of an individual, and such killing results, shall be sentenced—

"(1) to a term of imprisonment of not less than 20 years and up to life imprisonment; or

"(2) to death."

By Mr. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 797. A bill to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize the design and construction of additions to the parking garage and certain site improvements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER PARKING
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, today I introduce legislation to help resolve the most serious problem identified by patrons and visitors of the Kennedy Center—the lack of adequate on-site parking. Joining me today as original cosponsors are: Senators BAUCUS and KENNEDY.

This legislation provides authority to the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees to construct an addition to the existing parking garage at each of the north and south ends of the Center. Importantly, Mr. President, the garage addition authorized in this bill will come at a cost to the Federal Government. The project will be financed through the issuance of industrial revenue bonds which will be repaid entirely with revenue derived from operation of the expanded garage. Indeed, a provision included in the legislation explicitly prohibits the use of appropriated funds for the purpose of constructing or financing the parking garage expansion.

Also included in the bill is authorization for the Center to take action on site modifications for the improvement of security on the site. The Center has conducted a complete security review, and among the recommendations are changes to the main approach and plaza. This legislation allows the Center to pursue site modifications for the protection of the building and its visitors.

Consistent with the John F. Kennedy Center Act Amendments of 1994, the

Center's plans for the garage expansion and other related site improvements will be developed in close consultation with the Department of Interior. In fact, the National Park Service sent a letter today to the president of the Kennedy Center, Mr. Lawrence J. Wilker, conveying its approval of the conceptual plan for this project.

Mr. President, let me say that this proposal reflects the commitment of the Kennedy Center trustees to continually improve this Presidential monument for the benefit of the Public—in a manner that is financially responsible. And indeed, the Center is an operation run in a financially sound way.

A little-known fact about the Kennedy Center is that 90 percent of the Center's annual operating income is derived from private sources. The Federal Government provides only 10 percent of the Center's annual operating income—and these Federal funds are carefully limited to nonperformance activities. This legislation maintains that impressive private-to-Federal funding ratio.

I am proud to serve as a trustee of the Kennedy Center, and commend the board for its stewardship of this treasured asset—the national center for the performing arts and living memorial to the late President.

In closing, Mr. President, I want to thank Senators BAUCUS and KENNEDY for their help in drafting this bill. I look forward to working with them and other colleagues to secure timely adoption of the measure.

By Mr. WARNER:

S. 798. A bill to establish a Commission on Information Technology Worker Shortage; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WORKER SHORTAGE ESTABLISHMENT ACT OF 1997

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the shortage of skilled workers is one of the most critical issues facing the U.S. information technology [IT] industry today. Our position as world leader in this industry is threatened—not by technology—but by a shortage of necessary labor.

This issue is underscored by what we see in the want-ads every week: thousands of high-paying jobs unfilled, because there are not enough skilled applicants.

There is a shortage of nearly 200,000 workers nationwide. The economic impact of this shortfall is being felt in every State and congressional district across America.

Virginia, with its growing high-tech industry, is particularly hard hit—it is currently estimated that 18,000 jobs are currently unfilled. Technology-based businesses in Virginia number over 2,450, employ more than 290,000 workers, and contribute more than \$13.8 billion in wages to the State's economy. At current rates of growth, by 2002 these numbers are expected to jump to over 4,000 companies, employing about 330,000, with \$22 billion in wages. The

average technology sector worker in Virginia earned \$45,288 in 1996, compared to an average wage of \$26,608 in the Virginia economy as a whole. By 2002, the average technology sector wage could grow to over \$63,000.

By any measure, these are the jobs of the future. But unless our workforce is educated and trained properly, these jobs will remain unfilled or, worse yet, move to countries with the necessary qualified people. This 2-5-million-person industry is projected to nearly double in size by the year 2000. But its growth is being stunted by the inability of firms to hire the talent that they need to expand.

Let me be clear: this problem is not confined to just high technology companies and it is not limited to one region of the country. It extends to any firm that depends on information technology employees to expand its markets, reach its customers, or improve its products.

Education is a key component of the solution to this problem. However, schools are not graduating enough qualified individuals to meet the need. From 1986 to 1994, the number of bachelor degrees in computer science, for example, fell 43 percent from 42,195 to 24,200. As the Senate begins the reauthorization process for the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the formulation of job training legislation, I hope we will give particular emphasis to the impact that the shortage of skilled technology workers is having on the economy, and recognize the need to ensure that our work force is prepared for the next century.

As cochair of the Senate Information Technology Caucus and a new member of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, I want to bring this matter to the attention of the Congress and the public, to demonstrate the far-reaching implications this crisis will have on the IT industry and the American economy as a whole.

We need to look at all options for addressing this problem. That is why I am introducing legislation establishing a National Commission on the Information Technology Worker Shortage. The Commission will be comprised of industry leaders, educators, and government officials who will study this issue and provide Congress with potential solutions. The Commission will draw on the brightest minds and the best ideas to craft the solutions necessary to encourage more students to enter technical fields, to ensure that teachers and schools are equipped to train them, and to incorporate the best private sector initiatives. The Commission will report concrete legislative and administrative recommendations to the President and to Congress within the year.

Mr. President, the Commission will provide the national focus and attention that this problem demands. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this initiative. ●