

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V of the bill, insert the following:

SEC. 5 . The Legal Services Corporation shall—

(1) conduct a study to determine the estimated number of individuals who were unable to obtain assistance from its grantees as a result of the enactment of section 504(a)(16) of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (Public Law 104-134; 110 Stat. 1321-55), during the six month period commencing with the enactment of this Act; and

(2) not later than 30 days thereafter, submit to Congress a report describing the results of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I can be very brief on this. This is really just a study.

Basically, what this amendment asks is that as we go forward with the welfare bill and it is implemented in States around the country, the Legal Services Corporation compile data on what kinds of appeals might be made by women and their families dealing with the welfare law as it is implemented.

It is simply a study to document numbers of people who come to them with a variety of different grievances so that we get a clear record of what is happening. Right now, in many cases, these lawyers are not able to take up these cases.

This does not mandate anything. It just simply calls for a study.

I thank my colleagues for their support.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the amendment be agreed to, and I yield back the remainder of our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 1033) was agreed to.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues.

Is the amendment agreed to?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is agreed to.

Mr. WELLSTONE. As to this amendment, I think what we want to make sure of, whatever differences we have about the welfare bill, what I think is a kind of bipartisan consensus is that it work well as it gets implemented at the State level. And so whether it is food-nutrition programs or whether it is a mother trying to find child care or whether someone who is in a job training program and trying to stay in that program or whether it is an issue of public transportation, we want to make sure that all of our citizens, even if they are poor, even if they are women and children, have legal representation and that the due process rights are maintained. I think this study will give us a clearer picture as

to where we are in relation to these issues.

I thank both my colleagues.

Mr. President, I would also like to thank them for their patience. I was at Justice Brennan's service and that is why I was a little late in getting back.

Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON INS FINGERPRINTING IN THE CJS APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like to raise with the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary, an important issue related to restrictions included in the CJS bill that reform the taking and processing of fingerprints by the Immigration and Naturalization Service for criminal background checks. At the outset, I would also like to thank Senator GREGG for his work on this issue, which has been of significant concern to me as chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee. I know it is also of great concern to the ranking member on our Subcommittee, Senator KENNEDY.

In fact, I chaired a hearing on this issue earlier this Congress and am considering legislation to address some of the very serious faults in the INS's conduct of criminal background checks. I have also raised this issue with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who expressed serious concerns—in terms of both quality and integrity—with the INS's use of outside entities to take fingerprints. Accordingly, I am pleased that the CJS bill will take us away from the current system, although I know that much remains to be done in this area.

The language in the manager's package will permit fingerprints for INS purposes to be taken only by offices of the INS or by law enforcement agencies, which may collect a fee for the service of taking and processing the fingerprints. The INS has indicated that it is moving to a new fingerprint processing system under which it would take all of the fingerprints at INS offices, and has indicated that it can do so without unduly delaying the naturalization process. However, the INS will not be able to bring its new system up and running by the start of the next fiscal year. Even with the ability to also utilize the services of law enforcement agencies, I believe that a delayed effective date of 9 to 12 months will be required so there can be an orderly transition to the new system and so that the processing of naturalization applications can continue without complete disruption to the system.

Mr. KENNEDY. I agree wholeheartedly with the chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee, and I share his concerns. The backlog in citizenship applications continues to grow. Without a significant delay in the effective date, we will have serious and possibly irreversible disruption in the naturalization process.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I thank the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts for his remarks. I would simply like to confirm with Senator GREGG my understanding that the effective date will be looked at in conference so that the effect of this provision can be delayed—I would hope in the range of 9 to 12 months—to an appropriate point.

Mr. GREGG. Yes. In conference, we will certainly examine the effective date of this provision and modify it as needed to make this transition work.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I thank the chairman in advance for his careful consideration of this issue in conference, and for the modifications to the provision that he has already made. I look forward to continuing to work with him in addressing the very serious problems in the INS's processing of citizenship applications.

#### U.S./ISRAEL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like to clarify report language on page 65 concerning the committee's willingness to permit the technology administration to undertake certain international economic development initiatives, particularly as it affects the United States/Israel Science and Technology Commission. I have long been a supporter of the work of the Commission, a binational program that promotes economic and technological collaboration between the United States and Israel that has already provided numerous benefits to both countries. It was not our intention to affect in any way the current or future activities and operations of the Commission, and I would like to clarify with the chairman of the subcommittee that it was not his intention either.

Mr. GREGG. The Senator is correct.

#### TEENS, CRIME AND THE COMMUNITY FUNDING

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I would like the attention of my colleagues to point out what I see as an unintentional omission. Last year's Commerce, Justice, State appropriations' conference report contained language which provided \$1.0 million for the National Crime, Prevention Council's Teens, Crime and the Community Program otherwise known as TCC. The Senate supported this provision last year and it was my intention that it be included in this year's bill. Unfortunately, it was inadvertently left out of the committee report. For my part, I believe it should be the Senate's intent that funding for The Teens, Crime, and the Community Program be included when the bill reaches conference.

Mr. GREGG. Would the Senator yield?

Mr. HOLLINGS. I yield to the distinguished chairman.

Mr. GREGG. I appreciate the ranking member, Senator HOLLINGS, bringing this oversight to the Senate's attention. Last year, I supported including this program in the conference report,

and, I agree with the Senator from South Carolina, it should be included in this fiscal year 1998 bill.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I appreciate the Senator's support and would point out that the TCC Program provides a unique curriculum to educate young people about crime risks and prevention with the aim of reducing or eliminating specific crime problems in their school or community. Over 500,000 young people in over 1,000 different schools and communities all across the country have participated in the program. It has proven to be an effective strategy for reducing crime, preventing delinquency, and involving youth in community crime prevention efforts.

Mr. GREGG. Let me conclude by saying that in conference we will seek to get the House to agree to provide \$1.0 million of juvenile justice and delinquency prevention funds for this worthwhile program. I yield the floor.

SOUTH DAKOTA EMERGENCY AND LAW  
ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to thank the chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary, Mr. GREGG, and the ranking member, Mr. HOLLINGS, for their excellent work on the fiscal year 1998 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary appropriations bill. They and their staffs have put together an excellent bill and should be commended for their leadership.

Let me take a brief moment to explain my intentions regarding amendment 1004. Its purpose is twofold. First, it makes \$100,000 available for a grant to Roberts County, SD.

It is clear from my discussions with law enforcement personnel in rural areas of South Dakota that few greater priorities exist than to ensure that South Dakotans have immediate access to emergency services when necessary. Unfortunately, many rural counties in South Dakota do not have the resources to purchase equipment for a 911 system to provide this capability. It is my intention that these funds be used for the purchase of that equipment and any other functions that must necessarily take place for the establishment of a 911 system in Roberts County. It is my further hope that in coming years Congress and the Department of Justice will continue to address the urgent need for assistance in the purchase of equipment to provide 911 services.

The second purpose of the section is to provide \$900,000 to the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation [DCI]. The DCI requires an immediate upgrade of computer and telecommunications equipment in its field offices, new equipment for its forensics lab, and new radio equipment to address problems in law enforcement radio transmissions. These funds will be of significant assistance in the provision of this equipment for the DCI, and I am pleased that I have been able to work with the committee to meet this need.

Once again, I thank the chairman and ranking member for their assistance with these important matters.

FTE INCREASES

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, the appropriation measure before us includes \$363 million for the National Marine Fisheries Service. In addition, the Committee recommendation allows for the administration's proposed increased of 58 full-time equivalents [FTE's] for the National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]. The Committee directs the NMFS to use as many available FTE's as are needed to ensure the full and timely implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Magnuson-Stevens Act was reauthorized in the 104th Congress after a long and difficult process of negotiation and compromise. It includes many new provisions to improve the conservation and management of this Nation's fishery resources. I appreciate the tremendous task the NMFS faces in fully implementing all of the new provisions and requirements we placed on the NMFS and share the committee's desire to see adequate FTE's allocated to this important task.

I am also concerned, however, about the very real need for FTE's to implement the requirements of the Endangered Species Act [ESA], particularly in the Pacific Northwest. With several salmon species already listed under the ESA and an elaborate recovery plan currently being implemented with a critical decision point rapidly approaching, with habitat conservation plans being negotiated with public utility districts in central Washington, and additional ESA listings likely coming in the future, the NMFS is in desperate need of both resources and personnel to meet its obligations. I appreciate the committee's willingness to fund NMFS efforts in these areas at or above the President's requested levels. These funds will go along way toward salmon recovery efforts throughout the entire Pacific coast. I would like to emphasize the need for adequate FTE's to be provided to this important effort. While the committee has correctly directed FTE's to the implementation of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, this allocation should not come at the expense of the agency's ability to undertake salmon recovery efforts in the Pacific Northwest. Both of these responsibilities of the NMFS are vitally important to Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. I urge the NMFS to meet the real need for FTE's in both of these areas.

TIAP-FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR  
1998

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I am pleased to note that Senate appropriators have restored \$10.5 million to the Telecommunications Information Infrastructure Assistance Program [TIAP]. TIAP is a highly competitive, merit-based, grant program that pro-

vides seed money for innovative, practical technology projects across the United States.

TIAP grants help our communities utilize the information technologies that play an increasingly important role in the world economy. Without access to advanced telecommunications services that deliver education, healthcare, social services, and news, individuals and sometimes entire communities are relegated to second-class economic status. Rural and low income regions that already face difficult economic hurdles are pushed even farther behind because they lack the resources to join the information revolution. The Federal assistance provided by TIAP has already helped many of these areas transition into the information economy.

In my home State of Nebraska, TIAP has helped the city of Crete purchase computers to build an access center where adults are taught computer skills and are given assistance to apply those skills to new jobs. Through the Nebraska Network for Children and Families, a TIAP grant provides funding for the Ideas Network. The Ideas Network is an interactive place where Nebraska families and professionals involved in the human services system may find information, dialog opportunities, education resources, advocacy information, and supportive relationships. Specifically, this valuable network is devoted to Nebraska's foster families, subsidized adoptive families, families of children with special needs, and human service professionals.

TIAP is a matching grant program. Since 1994, \$79 million in Federal grant funds generated investment of \$133 million of local funds. Underfunding this productive program would have been a tremendous mistake. Without the seed money provided by TIAP, valuable community building projects such as the Ideas Network would not be possible. This innovative program is an important component of better education, health care and improved community relations.

JACOB WETTERLING ACT

Mr. DEWINE. I wish to ask my colleague from New Hampshire a question. It is my understanding that the Senator from New Hampshire has authored language in this appropriations bill that amends the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration Act?

Mr. GREGG. Yes, I have worked hard to address some technical changes to this act that I believe will improve the procedure for the registration of sex offenders, and raise States' compliance with its provisions.

Mr. DEWINE. I appreciate your leadership on this important issue, and believe that you have improved this important law. However, the attorney general of Ohio has raised an issue shared by a majority of States that I am compelled to address.

Current law under the Jacob Wetterling Act requires that States