

years. If America is to achieve its goal of equal opportunity for our children, we need to start with proper care in their early years. It is a painful statistic then that our youngest citizens are also some of the poorest Americans. One out of every four of our country's 12 million children under the age of three live in poverty. It becomes very difficult to break out of the cycle of poverty if poor children are not allowed to develop into fully functioning adults.

Yet many parents in America do not have the option of providing adequate care for their children. For parents who can barely afford rent it is nearly impossible to take advantage of the Family Medical Leave Act, and sacrifice 12 weeks of pay in order to directly supervise a child. Many mothers need to return to work shortly after giving birth and find that the only options open to them are to place their children in care that is substandard, even potentially dangerous—but affordable. According to the Children's Defense Fund, six out of seven child care centers provide only poor to mediocre care, and one in eight centers provide care that could jeopardize children's safety and development. The same study said that one in three home-based care situations could be harmful to a child's development. How can we abide by these statistics?

This is a serious problem, and frighteningly widespread. The eligibility levels set for receiving child care aid through the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is 85 percent of a state's median income. Nationally, this came out to about \$35,000 for a family of three in 1998. However, according to the Children's Defense Fund, fully half of all families with young children earn less than \$35,000 per year. Half! A family that has two parents working full time at minimum wage earns only \$21,400 per year. This is not nearly enough to even dream of adequate child care.

Child care costs in the United States for one child in full-day day care range from \$4,000 to \$10,000 a year. It is not surprising that, on average, families with incomes under \$15,000 a year spend 23 percent of their annual incomes on child care. And in West Virginia, if a family of three makes more than that \$15,000, they no longer qualify for child care aid! In fact, thirty-two states do not allow a family of three which earns \$25,000 a year (approximately 185 percent of poverty) to qualify for help. Only four states in our nation set eligibility cut-offs for receiving child care assistance at 85 percent of median family income, the maximum allowed by federal law. There is obviously not enough funding to support the huge need for child care assistance in our nation, and that is why I am proposing the Child Care Development Act.

There is widespread support for expanded investments to improve the affordability and quality of child care. A recent survey of 550 police chiefs found

that nine out of ten police chiefs surveyed agreed that "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a good start" such as Head Start and child care. Mayors across the country identified child care, more than any other issue, as one of the most pressing issues facing children and families in their communities in 1996 survey. A recent poll found that a bipartisan majority of those polled support increased investments in helping families pay for child care—specifically, 74% of those polled favor a bill to help low-income and middle-class families pay for child care, including 79% of Democrats, 69% of Republicans, and 76% of Independents.

It is clear that many like to talk about supporting our children, and many are in favor of supporting our children, but what action is actually taken? Yes, the addition of new child care dollars in 1996 has helped welfare recipients, but it has done nothing for working, low-income families not receiving TANF. The Children's Defense Fund recommends that Congress pass comprehensive legislation that guarantees at least \$20 billion over five years in new funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). My Child Care Development Act goes beyond this, yet even my bill is just a first step. This bill is designed to provide affordable, quality child care to half of the ten million American children presently in need of subsidized care. It will provide \$62.5 billion over 5 years—\$12.5 billion a year—nearly three times the amount proposed in the President's most ambitious, and still unprosecuted, proposal. In 1997 the President proposed extending care to 600,000 children from poor families, leaving fully 80% of eligible children without aid. The last time we heard about that proposal was 1997.

If we are serious about putting parents to work and protecting children, we need to invest more in families and in child care help for them. Enabling families to work and helping children thrive means giving states enough money so that they can set reasonable eligibility levels, let families know that help is available, and take working families off the waiting lists.

The Child Care Development Act will require \$62.5 billion over five years. There will be several offsets necessary if we are serious about giving children in this country the type of care they need and deserve. Shifting spending from these offsets demonstrates that our true national priority is children, not wasteful military spending and corporate tax loopholes.

The offsets that will be necessary are as follows. If we repeal the reductions in the Corporate Minimum Tax from the 1997 Budget Bill, we create \$8.2 billion. The elimination of the Special Oil and Gas Depletion Allowance will make room for and additional \$4.3 billion. An offset of \$575 million will come from a repeal of the Enhanced Oil Re-

covery Credit and an offset of \$13.8 billion will come from the elimination of exclusion for Foreign-Earned Income. From these four different offsets in tax provisions a sub total amount of \$26.8 billion is created to spend on child care.

Defense cuts will also be necessary in the amount of \$24.4 billion. This will come from canceling the F-22, a plane plagued with troubles, which will free up \$19.3 billion, and \$5.1 billion will come from a reduction in Nuclear Delivery Systems Within Overall Limits of START II.

The remaining offsets can be made by reducing the Intelligence Budget by 5%, which would save \$6.7 billion; by reducing Military Export Subsidies by \$850 million; and by canceling the International Space Station, which costs \$10 billion. All of which, when added together, allows for an additional \$68.8 billion to be used to support our children.

This is, finally, a child care bill on the same scope as the problem itself. We as a nation are neglecting the most vulnerable and important portion of our society—our children. Here is an ambitious solution to this vast problem that has been plaguing our country, so that we don't have to be a country that just talks about putting our children first.●

#### RECOGNITION OF STEVEN BOLTON, MD

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Dr. Steven Bolton, who was recently awarded the Mary Maurita Sengelaub, RSM, Award for Meritorious Service for 1998. This award is presented annually to a person "whose contributions to the healing ministry are in striking harmony with the works of Catherine McAuley, foundress and first Sister of Mercy."

Steve Bolton was raised in the city of Detroit. While growing up in the city his parents placed a strong emphasis on helping the less fortunate in our society, and he has passed that feeling along to his three sons. This experience led Steve Bolton, following in the footsteps of his older siblings, to dedicate himself to becoming a doctor in order to "understand what makes us human and to use this knowledge to help others." Steve eventually came to understand how poverty affects the health of the "working poor" and is now a general surgeon at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland making a difference in the lives of working families.

Steve Bolton has also served over the past seven years as volunteer medical director of Mercy Place in Pontiac, Michigan. Mercy Place is a clinic offering free health care to the community. In addition to his demanding work schedule as a general surgeon, Steve volunteers several days a week at the clinic. He also often donates his professional fees if a patient needs surgery and cannot afford to pay.

Mr. President, Dr. Steve Bolton is most deserving of the Mary Maurita

Sengelaub, RSM, Award for Meritorious Service. I know my Senate colleagues join me in honoring this extraordinary individual for the outstanding work he does on behalf of the community.●

#### A SALUTE TO SUNLL "SUNNY" AGHI

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I want to take just a few moments today to salute one of the young leaders of the Indo-American community, someone who is providing for all of us an exemplary model of what it means to serve our neighborhoods, our communities, and our fellow Americans.

Mr. Sunll "Sunny" Aghi is the founder and President of the Indo-American Political Foundation, an organization based in California, dedicated to engaging Indo-Americans in the political process and ensuring that Indo-Ameri-

cans gain a foothold in our government as elected officials. Sunll Aghi has brought an impressive energy to this mission—actively recruiting Indo-Americans to meet the challenges of participatory democracy as voters, supporters, and candidates, whether the be new citizens or established leaders in California's diverse communities.

Sunll has also found substantial ways to contribute to life in California beyond politics. Mr. Aghi is the founder of Thank You America—an organization dedicated to providing food and clothing to the homeless of Orange County each year on Thanksgiving Day, an effort which has benefits over 500 needy individuals each holiday. Sunll hopes to expand Thank You America's operations to eventually include providing college scholarships for talented, young Californians struggling to afford a college education. These ef-

forts demonstrate to all of us the truth that DeTocqueville spoke of 150 years ago when he said "America is great because Americans are good." Sunll Aghi is keeping that tradition of civic responsibility alive and well for a new generation of our citizens.

Mr. President, I am pleased to have the chance to acknowledge Mr. Aghi for his contributions to our country and to the democratic process. I applaud his efforts and share his hopes that someday soon we will bring all Indo-Americans into the mainstream of American politics as full participants, and that in the coming years we will build an America where Indo-Americans serve in and are fully represented in the House, the Senate, and the Administration. His work is an inspiration to all of us, and I hope more Americans will follow his tremendous example of activism and citizenship raised to a higher level.●

#### FOREIGN CURRENCY REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following report(s) of standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION AND FORESTRY FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 1998

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Stephanie Mercier:									
USA .....	Dollar .....		2,300.00		1,217.50				3,517.50
Total .....			2,300.00		1,217.50				3,517.50

RICARD G. LUGAR,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, Jan. 7, 1999.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 1998

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Tom Harkin:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				5,214.49				5,214.49
Yugoslavia .....	Dinar .....	218.96	238.00					218.96	238.00
Israel .....	Shekel .....	3,349.70	779.00					3,349.70	779.00
Jordan .....	Dinar .....	256	183.00					256	183.00
Senator Daniel Inouye:									
South Korea .....	Won .....	938,160	712.35					938,60	712.35
Japan .....	Yen .....	97,474	825.00					97,474	825.00
Charles J. Houy:									
South Korea .....	Won .....	928,160	704.65					928,160	704.65
Japan .....	Yen .....	147,684	1,250.00					147,684	1,250.00
Total .....			4,692.00		5,214.49				9,906.49

TED STEVENS,  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Jan. 31, 1999.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES AND APPROPRIATED FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95-384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 1998

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem		Transportation		Miscellaneous		Total	
		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Scott W. Stucky:									
United States .....	Dollar .....				4,588.77				4,588.77
Germany .....	Mark .....	103	63.19					103	63.19
Italy .....	Lire .....	680,000	410.63					680,000	410.63
Cord A. Sterling:									
Italy .....	Dollar .....		536.00						536.00
Germany .....	Dollar .....		545.00						545.00
United Kingdom .....	Dollar .....		2,068.00						2,068.00
Yugoslavia .....	Dollar .....		199.00						199.00
United States .....	Dollar .....				5,962.70				5,962.70