

any discrepancy between cited acreage and the land depicted on the specified maps, the maps shall control. The maps do not constitute an attempt by the United States to convey State or private land.

The committee amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 430), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

DIRECTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO TRANSFER PROPERTY IN BIG HORN COUNTY, WYOMING

The bill (S. 449) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens of Big Horn County, Wyoming, certain land comprising the Steffens family property was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 449

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

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF STEFFENS FAMILY PROPERTY.

(a) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to subsection (b) and valid existing rights, the Secretary of the Interior shall issue, without consideration, a quitclaim deed to Marie Wambeke of Big Horn County, Wyoming, the personal representative of the estate of Fred Steffens, to the land described in subsection (c).

(b) RESERVATION OF MINERALS.—All minerals underlying the land described in subsection (c) are reserved to the United States.

(c) LAND DESCRIPTION.—The land described in this subsection is the parcel comprising approximately 80 acres and known as "Farm Unit C" in the E½NW¼ of Section 27 in Township 57 North, Range 97 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Wyoming.

(d) REVOCATION OF WITHDRAWAL.—The withdrawal for the Shoshone Reclamation Project made by the Bureau of Reclamation under Secretarial Order dated October 21, 1913, is revoked with respect to the land described in subsection (c).

METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

The bill (S. 330) to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of methane hydrate resources, and for other purposes, was considered, ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 330

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 "Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONTRACT.—The term "contract" means a procurement contract within the meaning of section 6303 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The term "cooperative agreement" means a cooperative agreement within the meaning of section 6305 of title 31, United States Code.

(3) GRANT.—The term "grant" means a grant awarded under a grant agreement,

within the meaning of section 6304 of title 31, United States Code.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education, within the meaning of section 102(a)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

(5) METHANE HYDRATE.—The term "methane hydrate" means a methane clathrate that—

(A) is in the form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline material; and

(B) is stable and occurs naturally in deep-ocean and permafrost areas.

(6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Energy.

(7) SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.—The term "Secretary of Defense" means the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Secretary of the Navy.

(8) SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—The term "Secretary of the Interior" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey.

(9) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

SEC. 3. METHANE HYDRATE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) COMMENCEMENT OF PROGRAM.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director, shall commence a program of methane hydrate research and development.

(2) DESIGNATIONS.—The Secretary, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director shall designate individuals to carry out this section.

(3) MEETINGS.—The individuals designated under paragraph (2) shall meet not later than 120 days after the date on which all such individuals are designated and not less frequently than every 120 days thereafter to—

(A) review the progress of the program under paragraph (1); and

(B) make recommendations on future activities to occur subsequent to the meeting.

(b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION.—The Secretary may award grants or contracts to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, institutions of higher education and industrial enterprises to—

(A) conduct basic and applied research to identify, explore, assess, and develop methane hydrate as a source of energy;

(B) assist in developing technologies required for efficient and environmentally sound development of methane hydrate resources;

(C) undertake research programs to provide safe means of transport and storage of methane produced from methane hydrates;

(D) promote education and training in methane hydrate resource research and resource development;

(E) conduct basic and applied research to assess and mitigate the environmental impacts of hydrate degassing (including both natural degassing and degassing associated with commercial development); and

(F) develop technologies to reduce the risks of drilling through methane hydrates.

(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary may establish an advisory panel consisting of experts from industry, institutions of higher education, and Federal agencies to—

(A) advise the Secretary on potential applications of methane hydrate; and

(B) assist in developing recommendations and priorities for the methane hydrate research and development program carried out under subsection (a)(1).

(c) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 5 percent of the amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal year may be used by the Secretary for expenses associated with the administration of the program carried out under subsection (a)(1).

(2) CONSTRUCTION COSTS.—None of the funds made available to carry out this section may be used for the construction of a new building or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building (including site grading and improvement and architect fees).

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—In carrying out subsection (b)(1), the Secretary shall—

(1) facilitate and develop partnerships among government, industry, and institutions of higher education to research, identify, assess, and explore methane hydrate resources;

(2) undertake programs to develop basic information necessary for promoting long-term interest in methane hydrate resources as an energy source;

(3) ensure that the data and information developed through the program are accessible and widely disseminated as needed and appropriate;

(4) promote cooperation among agencies that are developing technologies that may hold promise for methane hydrate resource development; and

(5) report annually to Congress on accomplishments under this section.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENT TO THE MINING AND MINERALS POLICY ACT OF 1970.

Section 201 of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1901) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as paragraphs (7) and (8), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the following:

"(6) The term 'methane hydrate' means a methane clathrate that—

"(A) is in the form of a methane-water ice-like crystalline material; and

"(B) is stable and occurs naturally in deep-ocean and permafrost areas."; and

(3) in paragraph (7) (as redesignated by paragraph (1))—

(A) in subparagraph (F), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as subparagraph (H); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

"(G) methane hydrate; and".

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

MISSING, EXPLOITED, AND RUN-AWAY CHILDREN PROTECTION ACT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 27, S. 249.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 249) to provide funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment

to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 402 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5771) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(9) for 14 years, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has—

"(A) served as the national resource center and clearinghouse congressionally mandated under the provisions of the Missing Children's Assistance Act of 1984; and

"(B) worked in partnership with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of State, and many other agencies in the effort to find missing children and prevent child victimization;

"(10) Congress has given the Center, which is a private non-profit corporation, access to the National Crime Information Center of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System;

"(11) since 1987, the Center has operated the National Child Pornography Tipline, in conjunction with the United States Customs Service and the United States Postal Inspection Service and, beginning this year, the Center established a new CyberTipline on child exploitation, thus becoming 'the 911 for the Internet';

"(12) in light of statistics that time is of the essence in cases of child abduction, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in February of 1997 created a new NCIC child abduction ('CA') flag to provide the Center immediate notification in the most serious cases, resulting in 642 'CA' notifications to the Center and helping the Center to have its highest recovery rate in history;

"(13) the Center has established a national and increasingly worldwide network, linking the Center online with each of the missing children clearinghouses operated by the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, as well as with Scotland Yard in the United Kingdom, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon, France, and others, which has enabled the Center to transmit images and information regarding missing children to law enforcement across the United States and around the world instantly;

"(14) from its inception in 1984 through March 31, 1998, the Center has—

"(A) handled 1,203,974 calls through its 24-hour toll-free hotline (1-800-THE-LOST) and currently averages 700 calls per day;

"(B) trained 146,284 law enforcement, criminal and juvenile justice, and healthcare professionals in child sexual exploitation and missing child case detection, identification, investigation, and prevention;

"(C) disseminated 15,491,344 free publications to citizens and professionals; and

"(D) worked with law enforcement on the cases of 59,481 missing children, resulting in the recovery of 40,180 children;

"(15) the demand for the services of the Center is growing dramatically, as evidenced by the fact that in 1997, the Center handled 129,100 calls, an all-time record, and by the fact that its new Internet website (www.missingkids.com) receives 1,500,000 'hits' every day, and is linked with hundreds of other websites to provide real-time images of breaking cases of missing children;

"(16) in 1997, the Center provided policy training to 256 police chiefs and sheriffs from 50

States and Guam at its new Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Center;

"(17) the programs of the Center have had a remarkable impact, such as in the fight against infant abductions in partnership with the healthcare industry, during which the Center has performed 668 onsite hospital walk-throughs and inspections, and trained 45,065 hospital administrators, nurses, and security personnel, and thereby helped to reduce infant abductions in the United States by 82 percent;

"(18) the Center is now playing a significant role in international child abduction cases, serving as a representative of the Department of State at cases under The Hague Convention, and successfully resolving the cases of 343 international child abductions, and providing greater support to parents in the United States;

"(19) the Center is a model of public/private partnership, raising private sector funds to match congressional appropriations and receiving extensive private in-kind support, including advanced technology provided by the computer industry such as imaging technology used to age the photographs of long-term missing children and to reconstruct facial images of unidentified deceased children;

"(20) the Center was 1 of only 10 of 300 major national charities given an A+ grade in 1997 by the American Institute of Philanthropy; and

"(21) the Center has been redesignated as the Nation's missing children clearinghouse and resource center once every 3 years through a competitive selection process conducted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the Department of Justice, and has received grants from that Office to conduct the crucial purposes of the Center."

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 403 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5772) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) the term 'Center' means the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children."

(c) DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Section 404 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5773) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

"(b) ANNUAL GRANT TO NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall annually make a grant to the Center, which shall be used to—

"(A)(i) operate a national 24-hour toll-free telephone line by which individuals may report information regarding the location of any missing child, or other child 13 years of age or younger whose whereabouts are unknown to such child's legal custodian, and request information pertaining to procedures necessary to reunite such child with such child's legal custodian; and

"(ii) coordinate the operation of such telephone line with the operation of the national communications system referred to in part C of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-11);

"(B) operate the official national resource center and information clearinghouse for missing and exploited children;

"(C) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals, information regarding—

"(i) free or low-cost legal, restaurant, lodging, and transportation services that are available for the benefit of missing and exploited children and their families; and

"(ii) the existence and nature of programs being carried out by Federal agencies to assist missing and exploited children and their families;

"(D) coordinate public and private programs that locate, recover, or reunite missing children with their families;

"(E) disseminate, on a national basis, information relating to innovative and model programs, services, and legislation that benefit missing and exploited children;

"(F) provide technical assistance and training to law enforcement agencies, State and local governments, elements of the criminal justice system, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and treatment of cases involving missing and exploited children; and

"(G) provide assistance to families and law enforcement agencies in locating and recovering missing and exploited children, both nationally and internationally.

"(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this subsection, \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004.

"(c) NATIONAL INCIDENCE STUDIES.—The Administrator, either by making grants to or entering into contracts with public agencies or nonprofit private agencies, shall—

"(1) periodically conduct national incidence studies to determine for a given year the actual number of children reported missing each year, the number of children who are victims of abduction by strangers, the number of children who are the victims of parental kidnappings, and the number of children who are recovered each year; and

"(2) provide to State and local governments, public and private nonprofit agencies, and individuals information to facilitate the lawful use of school records and birth certificates to identify and locate missing children."

(d) NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN.—Section 405(a) of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5775(a)) is amended by inserting "the Center and with" before "public agencies".

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 408 of the Missing Children's Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5777) is amended by striking "1997 through 2001" and inserting "2000 through 2004".

SEC. 3. RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH.

(a) FINDINGS.—Section 302 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (5), by striking "accurate reporting of the problem nationally and to develop" and inserting "an accurate national reporting system to report the problem, and to assist in the development of"; and

(2) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the following:

"(8) services for runaway and homeless youth are needed in urban, suburban, and rural areas;"

(b) AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.—Section 311 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5711) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

"(a) GRANTS FOR CENTERS AND SERVICES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to public and nonprofit private entities (and combinations of such entities) to establish and operate (including renovation) local centers to provide services for runaway and homeless youth and for the families of such youth.

"(2) SERVICES PROVIDED.—Services provided under paragraph (1)—

"(A) shall be provided as an alternative to involving runaway and homeless youth in the law enforcement, child welfare, mental health, and juvenile justice systems;

"(B) shall include—

"(i) safe and appropriate shelter; and

"(ii) individual, family, and group counseling, as appropriate; and

"(C) may include—

"(i) street-based services;

"(ii) home-based services for families with youth at risk of separation from the family; and

"(iii) drug abuse education and prevention services.";

(2) in subsection (b)(2), by striking "the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands,"; and

(3) by striking subsections (c) and (d).

(c) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 312 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5712) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (8), by striking "paragraph (6)" and inserting "paragraph (7)";

(B) in paragraph (10), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in paragraph (11), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

"(12) shall submit to the Secretary an annual report that includes, with respect to the year for which the report is submitted—

"(A) information regarding the activities carried out under this part;

"(B) the achievements of the project under this part carried out by the applicant; and

"(C) statistical summaries describing—

"(i) the number and the characteristics of the runaway and homeless youth, and youth at risk of family separation, who participate in the project; and

"(ii) the services provided to such youth by the project."; and

(2) by striking subsections (c) and (d) and inserting the following:

"(c) **APPLICANTS PROVIDING STREET-BASED SERVICES.**—To be eligible to use assistance under section 311(a)(2)(C)(i) to provide street-based services, the applicant shall include in the plan required by subsection (b) assurances that in providing such services the applicant will—

"(1) provide qualified supervision of staff, including on-street supervision by appropriately trained staff;

"(2) provide backup personnel for on-street staff;

"(3) provide initial and periodic training of staff who provide such services; and

"(4) conduct outreach activities for runaway and homeless youth, and street youth.

"(d) **APPLICANTS PROVIDING HOME-BASED SERVICES.**—To be eligible to use assistance under section 311(a) to provide home-based services described in section 311(a)(2)(C)(ii), an applicant shall include in the plan required by subsection (b) assurances that in providing such services the applicant will—

"(1) provide counseling and information to youth and the families (including unrelated individuals in the family households) of such youth, including services relating to basic life skills, interpersonal skill building, educational advancement, job attainment skills, mental and physical health care, parenting skills, financial planning, and referral to sources of other needed services;

"(2) provide directly, or through an arrangement made by the applicant, 24-hour service to respond to family crises (including immediate access to temporary shelter for runaway and homeless youth, and youth at risk of separation from the family);

"(3) establish, in partnership with the families of runaway and homeless youth, and youth at risk of separation from the family, objectives and measures of success to be achieved as a result of receiving home-based services;

"(4) provide initial and periodic training of staff who provide home-based services; and

"(5) ensure that—

"(A) caseloads will remain sufficiently low to allow for intensive (5 to 20 hours per week) involvement with each family receiving such services; and

"(B) staff providing such services will receive qualified supervision.

"(e) **APPLICANTS PROVIDING DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES.**—To be

eligible to use assistance under section 311(a)(2)(C)(iii) to provide drug abuse education and prevention services, an applicant shall include in the plan required by subsection (b)—

"(1) a description of—

"(A) the types of such services that the applicant proposes to provide;

"(B) the objectives of such services; and

"(C) the types of information and training to be provided to individuals providing such services to runaway and homeless youth; and

"(2) an assurance that in providing such services the applicant shall conduct outreach activities for runaway and homeless youth.".

(d) **APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.**—Section 313 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5713) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 313. APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—An application by a public or private entity for a grant under section 311(a) may be approved by the Secretary after taking into consideration, with respect to the State in which such entity proposes to provide services under this part—

"(1) the geographical distribution in such State of the proposed services under this part for which all grant applicants request approval; and

"(2) which areas of such State have the greatest need for such services.

"(b) **PRIORITY.**—In selecting applications for grants under section 311(a), the Secretary shall give priority to—

"(1) eligible applicants who have demonstrated experience in providing services to runaway and homeless youth; and

"(2) eligible applicants that request grants of less than \$200,000.".

(e) **AUTHORITY FOR TRANSITIONAL LIVING GRANT PROGRAM.**—Section 321 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-1) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "PURPOSE AND";

(2) in subsection (a), by striking "(a)"; and

(3) by striking subsection (b).

(f) **ELIGIBILITY.**—Section 322(a)(9) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-2(a)(9)) is amended by inserting ", and the services provided to such youth by such project," after "such project".

(g) **COORDINATION.**—Section 341 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-21) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 341. COORDINATION.

"With respect to matters relating to the health, education, employment, and housing of runaway and homeless youth, the Secretary—

"(1) in conjunction with the Attorney General, shall coordinate the activities of agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services with activities under any other Federal juvenile crime control, prevention, and juvenile offender accountability program and with the activities of other Federal entities; and

"(2) shall coordinate the activities of agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services with the activities of other Federal entities and with the activities of entities that are eligible to receive grants under this title.".

(h) **AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS FOR RESEARCH, EVALUATION, DEMONSTRATION, AND SERVICE PROJECTS.**—Section 343 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714-23) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by inserting "EVALUATION," after "RESEARCH,";

(2) in subsection (a), by inserting "evaluation," after "research,"; and

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) through (10) as paragraphs (2) through (9), respectively.

(i) **ASSISTANCE TO POTENTIAL GRANTEEES.**—Section 371 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714a) is amended by striking the last sentence.

(j) **REPORTS.**—Section 381 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5715) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 381. REPORTS.

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than April 1, 2000, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit, to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, a report on the status, activities, and accomplishments of entities that receive grants under parts A, B, C, D, and E, with particular attention to—

"(1) in the case of centers funded under part A, the ability or effectiveness of such centers in—

"(A) alleviating the problems of runaway and homeless youth;

"(B) if applicable or appropriate, reuniting such youth with their families and encouraging the resolution of intrafamily problems through counseling and other services;

"(C) strengthening family relationships and encouraging stable living conditions for such youth; and

"(D) assisting such youth to decide upon a future course of action; and

"(2) in the case of projects funded under part B—

"(A) the number and characteristics of homeless youth served by such projects;

"(B) the types of activities carried out by such projects;

"(C) the effectiveness of such projects in alleviating the problems of homeless youth;

"(D) the effectiveness of such projects in preparing homeless youth for self-sufficiency;

"(E) the effectiveness of such projects in assisting homeless youth to decide upon future education, employment, and independent living;

"(F) the ability of such projects to encourage the resolution of intrafamily problems through counseling and development of self-sufficient living skills; and

"(G) activities and programs planned by such projects for the following fiscal year.

"(b) **CONTENTS OF REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall include in each report submitted under subsection (a), summaries of—

"(1) the evaluations performed by the Secretary under section 386; and

"(2) descriptions of the qualifications of, and training provided to, individuals involved in carrying out such evaluations.".

(k) **EVALUATION.**—Section 384 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 386. EVALUATION AND INFORMATION.

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—If a grantee receives grants for 3 consecutive fiscal years under part A, B, C, D, or E (in the alternative), then the Secretary shall evaluate such grantee on-site, not less frequently than once in the period of such 3 consecutive fiscal years, for purposes of—

"(1) determining whether such grants are being used for the purposes for which such grants are made by the Secretary;

"(2) collecting additional information for the report required by section 383; and

"(3) providing such information and assistance to such grantee as will enable such grantee to improve the operation of the centers, projects, and activities for which such grants are made.

"(b) **COOPERATION.**—Recipients of grants under this title shall cooperate with the Secretary's efforts to carry out evaluations, and to collect information, under this title.".

(l) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 385 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 388. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—

"(1) **AUTHORIZATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title (other than part E) such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004.

"(2) ALLOCATION.—

"(A) PARTS A AND B.—From the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not less than 90 percent to carry out parts A and B.

"(B) PART B.—Of the amount reserved under subparagraph (A), not less than 20 percent, and not more than 30 percent, shall be reserved to carry out part B.

"(3) PARTS C AND D.—In each fiscal year, after reserving the amounts required by paragraph (2), the Secretary shall use the remaining amount (if any) to carry out parts C and D.

"(b) SEPARATE IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED.—No funds appropriated to carry out this title may be combined with funds appropriated under any other Act if the purpose of combining such funds is to make a single discretionary grant, or a single discretionary payment, unless such funds are separately identified in all grants and contracts and are used for the purposes specified in this title."

(m) SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM.—

(1) AUTHORITY FOR PROGRAM.—The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by striking the heading for part F;

(B) by redesignating part E as part F; and

(C) by inserting after part D the following:

"PART E—SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

"SEC. 351. AUTHORITY TO MAKE GRANTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to nonprofit private agencies for the purpose of providing street-based services to runaway and homeless, and street youth, who have been subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, sexual abuse, prostitution, or sexual exploitation.

"(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting applicants to receive grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to nonprofit private agencies that have experience in providing services to runaway and homeless, and street youth."

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 388(a) of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5751), as amended by subsection (1) of this section, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(4) PART E.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out part E such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004."

(n) DEFINITIONS.—The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 386, as amended by subsection (k) of this section, the following:

"SEC. 387. DEFINITIONS.

"In this title:

"(1) DRUG ABUSE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES.—The term 'drug abuse education and prevention services'—

"(A) means services to runaway and homeless youth to prevent or reduce the illicit use of drugs by such youth; and

"(B) may include—

"(i) individual, family, group, and peer counseling;

"(ii) drop-in services;

"(iii) assistance to runaway and homeless youth in rural areas (including the development of community support groups);

"(iv) information and training relating to the illicit use of drugs by runaway and homeless youth, to individuals involved in providing services to such youth; and

"(v) activities to improve the availability of local drug abuse prevention services to runaway and homeless youth.

"(2) HOME-BASED SERVICES.—The term 'home-based services'—

"(A) means services provided to youth and their families for the purpose of—

"(i) preventing such youth from running away, or otherwise becoming separated, from their families; and

"(ii) assisting runaway youth to return to their families; and

"(B) includes services that are provided in the residences of families (to the extent practicable), including—

"(i) intensive individual and family counseling; and

"(ii) training relating to life skills and parenting.

"(3) HOMELESS YOUTH.—The term 'homeless youth' means an individual—

"(A) who is—

"(i) not more than 21 years of age; and

"(ii) for the purposes of part B, not less than 16 years of age;

"(B) for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative; and

"(C) who has no other safe alternative living arrangement.

"(4) STREET-BASED SERVICES.—The term 'street-based services'—

"(A) means services provided to runaway and homeless youth, and street youth, in areas where they congregate, designed to assist such youth in making healthy personal choices regarding where they live and how they behave; and

"(B) may include—

"(i) identification of and outreach to runaway and homeless youth, and street youth;

"(ii) crisis intervention and counseling;

"(iii) information and referral for housing;

"(iv) information and referral for transitional living and health care services;

"(v) advocacy, education, and prevention services related to—

"(I) alcohol and drug abuse;

"(II) sexual exploitation;

"(III) sexually transmitted diseases, including human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); and

"(IV) physical and sexual assault.

"(5) STREET YOUTH.—The term 'street youth' means an individual who—

"(A) is—

"(i) a runaway youth; or

"(ii) indefinitely or intermittently a homeless youth; and

"(B) spends a significant amount of time on the street or in other areas that increase the risk to such youth for sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, prostitution, or drug abuse.

"(6) TRANSITIONAL LIVING YOUTH PROJECT.—The term 'transitional living youth project' means a project that provides shelter and services designed to promote a transition to self-sufficient living and to prevent long-term dependency on social services.

"(7) YOUTH AT RISK OF SEPARATION FROM THE FAMILY.—The term 'youth at risk of separation from the family' means an individual—

"(A) who is less than 18 years of age; and

"(B) (i) who has a history of running away from the family of such individual;

"(ii) whose parent, guardian, or custodian is not willing to provide for the basic needs of such individual; or

"(iii) who is at risk of entering the child welfare system or juvenile justice system as a result of the lack of services available to the family to meet such needs."

(o) REDESIGNATION OF SECTIONS.—Sections 371, 372, 381, 382, and 383 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5714b-5851 et seq.), as amended by this title, are redesignated as sections 381, 382, 383, 384, and 385, respectively.

(p) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5701 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 331, in the first sentence, by striking "With" and all that follows through "the Secretary", and inserting "The Secretary"; and

(2) in section 344(a)(1), by striking "With" and all that follows through "the Secretary", and inserting "The Secretary".

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I am proud that the Senate is now considering S. 249, the Missing, Exploited,

and Runaway Children Protection Act of 1999. First, I would like to thank my colleague, the distinguished Senator from Vermont, Senator LEAHY, for his hard work and dedication in advancing this important legislation. I also want to pay tribute to the cosponsors of S. 249, Senators DEWINE, GRAMS, ASHCROFT, ABRAHAM, and BIDEN. This bill, which was reported out of the Judiciary Committee on a unanimous vote, reauthorizes two vital laws that serve a crucial line of defense in support of some of the most vulnerable members of our society—thousands of missing, exploited, homeless, or runaway children. It is a tragedy in our Nation that each year there are as many as over 114,000 attempted child abductions, 4,500 child abductions reported to the police, 450,000 children who run away, and 438,000 children who are lost, injured, or missing. I am told that this is a growing problem even in my State of Utah.

Families who have written to me have shared the pain of a lost or missing child. While missing, lost, on the run, or abducted, each of these children is at high risk of falling into the darkness of drug abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, pain, hunger, and injury. Each of these children is precious, and deserves our efforts to save them.

Our bill reauthorizes and improves the Missing Children's Assistance Act and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. First, our bill revises the Missing Children's Assistance Act in part by recognizing the outstanding record of achievements of this National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It will enable NCMEC to provide even greater protection of our Nation's children in the future. Second, our bill reauthorizes and revitalizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

At the heart of the bill's amendments to the Missing Children's Assistance Act is an enhanced authorization of appropriations for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Under the authority of the Missing Children's Assistance Act, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has selected and given grants to the Center for the last fourteen years to operate a national resource center located in Arlington, Virginia and a national 24-hour toll-free telephone line. Today, the National Runaway Switchboard, which is a communications system designed to assist runaway youth and their families, responds to 150,000 calls a year. The Center provides invaluable assistance and training to law enforcement around the country in cases of missing and exploited children. Through the Center's work in FY 1997, almost 36,000 youth received food, 35,000 acquired shelter, over 22,000 obtained transportation home, 21,000 received substance abuse prevention services, and almost 18,000 received clothing. The Center's record is quite impressive, and its efforts have led directly to a significant increase in the percentage of missing children who are recovered safely.

In fiscal year 1999, the Center received an earmark of \$8.12 million in the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State Appropriations conference report. In addition, the Center's Jimmy Ryce Training Center received \$1.25 million.

This legislation continues and formalizes NCMEC's long partnership with the Justice Department and OJJDP, by directing OJJDP to make an annual grant to the Center, and authorizing annual appropriations of \$10 million for fiscal years 1999 through 2004.

NCMEC's exemplary record of performance and success, as demonstrated by the fact that NCMEC's recovery rate has climbed from 62% to 91%, justifies action by Congress to formally recognize it as the nation's official missing and exploited children's center, and to authorize a line-item appropriation. This bill will enable the Center to focus completely on its missions, without expending the annual effort to obtain authority and grants from OJJDP. It also will allow the Center to expand its longer-term arrangements with domestic and foreign law enforcement entities. By providing an authorization, the bill also will allow for better congressional oversight of the Center.

The record of the Center, described briefly below, demonstrates the appropriateness of this authorization. For fourteen years, the Center has served as the national resource center and clearinghouse mandated by the Missing Children's Assistance Act. The Center has worked in partnership with the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Treasury, the State Department, and many other federal and state agencies in the effort to find missing children and prevent child victimization.

The trust the federal government has placed in NCMEC, a private, non-profit corporation, is evidenced by its unique access to the FBI's National Crime Information Center, and the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS).

NCMEC has utilized the latest in technology, such as operating the National Child Pornography Tipline, establishing its new Internet website, www.missingkids.com, which is linked with hundreds of other websites to provide real-time images of breaking cases of missing children, and, beginning this year, establishing a new Cyber Tipline on child exploitation.

NCMEC has established a national and increasingly worldwide network, linking NCMEC online with each of the missing children clearinghouses operated by the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In addition, NCMEC works constantly with international law enforcement authorities such as Scotland Yard in the United Kingdom, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, INTERPOL headquarters in Lyon, France, and others. This network enables NCMEC to transmit im-

ages and information regarding missing children to law enforcement across America and around the world instantly. NCMEC also serves as the U.S. State Department's representative at child abduction cases under the Hague Convention.

The record of NCMEC is demonstrated by the 1,203,974 calls received at its 24-hour toll-free hotline, 1(800)THE LOST, the 146,284 law enforcement, criminal/juvenile justice, and health care professionals trained, the 15,491,344 free publications distributed, and, most importantly, by its work on 59,481 cases of missing children, which has resulted in the recovery of 40,180 children. Each of these figures represents the activity of NCMEC through Spring, 1998. NCMEC is a shining example of the type of public-private partnership the Congress should encourage and recognize.

The second part of our bill reforms and streamlines the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, targeting federal assistance to areas with the greatest need, and making numerous technical changes. According to the National Network for Youth, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act provides "critical assistance to youth in high-risk situations all over the country." Its three programs, discussed in more detail below, benefit those children truly in need and at high risk of becoming addicted to drugs, sexually exploited or abused, or involved in criminal behavior.

The cornerstone of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act is the Basic Center Program which provides grants for temporary shelter and counseling for children under age 18. My home state of Utah received over \$378,000 in grants in FY 1998 under this program, and I have received requests from Utah organizations such as the Baker Youth Service Home to reauthorize this important program. Cities such as Provo, Ogden, Cedar City, and Salt Lake City have received funding under the grants. Since 1993, at least 5,000 youths have received assistance in Utah.

Community-based organizations also may request grants under the two related programs, the Transitional Living and the Sexual Abuse Prevention/Street Outreach programs. The Transitional Living grants provide longer term housing to homeless teens aged 16 to 21, and aim to move these teens to self-sufficiency and to avoid long-term dependency on public assistance. The Sexual Abuse Prevention/Street Outreach Program targets homeless teens potentially involved in high risk behaviors.

In addition, the amendment reauthorizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Rural Demonstration Projects which provide assistance to rural juvenile populations, such as in my state of Utah. Finally, the amendment makes several technical corrections to fix prior drafting errors in the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

The provisions of this bill will strengthen our commitment to our

youth. The children helped by this legislation are not nameless, faceless statistics. They are children from every State and from each of our hometowns who are lost, sometimes abused, and frequently scared. Too often, no one takes the time to care. The Missing Children's Assistance Act and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act fund programs in every State run by dedicated staff and volunteers who take the time to care. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, which will strengthen the Missing Children's Assistance Act, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, and thus improve the safety and the lives of our Nation's most vulnerable children.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am delighted that the Senate is considering the Leahy-Hatch substitute to S. 249, the "Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act," which will reauthorize programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and authorize funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

This bill authorizes a variety of critical programs for our nation's most at risk children and youth—those who are missing or have been exploited and those who have run away or been forced from home or are homeless. That is why I am particularly pleased that Senator HATCH and I were able to work together and with Senator BIDEN, DEWINE and ABRAHAM in the Judiciary Committee to report our substitute amendment without a single objection in early March. These children need our help, not partisan bickering, and I hope the House of Representatives will follow our lead and enact this bill promptly.

I have been working since 1996 to enact legislation to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. Unfortunately, that Act has been without clear authorization since then. It is past time for Congress to remedy this situation. Last Congress, I worked hard to pass a similar bill, S. 2073, which would have reauthorized the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and would have provided special authorization for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ("NCMEC"). With the assistance of Senators KENNEDY, BIDEN, KOHL, and FEINGOLD, Senator HATCH and I reported S. 2073 from the Judiciary Committee to the Senate in May 1998. That bill passed the Senate with the unanimous consent of all Senators on June 26, 1998.

Rather than consider the Senate bill last year, the House of Representatives chose to use our bill number as a vehicle to try to force Senate action on controversial juvenile justice matters that had never been considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee or the full Senate. Thereafter, I worked to attach the provisions of our original and non-controversial bill as an amendment to other legislation. Even when we were successful in the Senate, certain House

Republicans continued to block all of our efforts.

I am optimistic that S. 249, this year's bill, will not face the same fate. With such an array of supporters in the Senate, surely the House will also see fit to pass this legislation quickly so that the critical programs in the bill can be funded and implemented.

I am particularly pleased that we have passed this bill with such strong bipartisan support. Reauthorizing the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act for five more years is the first step in assuring local community programs that they will have the resources they need to assist runaway youth and their families. And, today's bill will also help the NCMEC to continue their good work by providing them with a special authorization of appropriations for five years as well. These programs are just the sort that studies have found to be effective and efficient uses of limited federal dollars.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children provides extremely worthwhile and effective assistance to children and families facing crises across the U.S. and around the world. In 1998, the National Center helped law enforcement officers locate over 5,000 missing children. They also handled 132,357 telephone calls to their hotline, which included calls to report a missing child, to request information or assistance and to provide leads on missing or potentially exploited children. This figure includes 10,904 reported leads or sightings of missing children, an increase of 25 percent over such leads in 1997.

Since 1984, the National Center has helped investigate 83 cases involving Vermont children who have been reported missing. They have had extraordinary success in resolving these cases, some of which have taken several years and have involved out of state or international negotiations, and have only one unresolved case at this time. I want to thank Ernie Allen and all the dedicated employees and volunteers associated with the National Center for their help in these matters.

The National Center serves a critical role as a clearinghouse of resources and information for both family members and law enforcement officers. They have developed a network of hotels and restaurants which will provide free services to parents in search of their children and have also developed extensive training programs. The National Center has trained 728 sheriffs and police chiefs from across the U.S. in recent years, including police chiefs from Dover, Hartford, Brattleboro and Winooski, Vermont, as well as members of the Vermont State Police. They have trained an additional 150,000 other officers in child sexual exploitation and the detection of missing children since 1984.

The National Center is also a leader in reducing the number of infant abductions by educating nurses, security staffs and hospitals. Their recent sem-

inar in Vermont, which trained 250 nurses and security personnel, should provide greater peace of mind to new parents in my home State.

Most recently, they have expanded their role in combating the sexual exploitation of children by going on-line. Last year, they launched their "CyberTipline" which allows internet users to report suspicious activities linked to the Internet, including child pornography and the potential enticement of children on-line. In the second half of 1998, they received over 4,000 leads from the CyberTipline which resulted in numerous arrests. I applaud the ongoing work of the Center and hope the House of Representatives will promptly pass this bill so that they can proceed with their important activities with fewer funding concerns.

The National Center established an international division some time ago and has been working to fulfil the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Last year the National Center held a conference on international concerns with child abductions and international custody battles between separated parents from different countries. This week, Lady Catherine Myer will be hosting another important event on these matters and launching an International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children with the help of the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act distributes funding to local community programs on the front lines assisting the approximately 1.3 million children and youth each year who are homeless or have left or been forced from their families for a variety of reasons. These programs assist some of our nation's neediest children—those who lack a roof over their heads. Many of the beneficiaries of these programs have either fled or been kicked out of their family homes due to serious family conflicts, substance abusing parents or other problems. These programs assist children facing a variety of circumstances and provide funding for shelters and crisis intervention services, transitional living arrangements and outreach to teens who are living on the streets.

J.C. Myers, Coordinator of the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs, noted recently in a letter to me that:

Early interventions such as those authorized under this act: the transitional living programs, crisis response and family reunification services, and peer street outreach programs are, in many cases, the only helping resource available to runaway & homeless young people and families in crisis. These services are much less costly and more effective than later, more drastic interventions runaway and homeless youths often eventually encounter, such as substance abuse treatment and incarceration.

Miriam Rollin, the Director of Public Policy at the National Network for Youth has noted:

Because runaway and homeless youth often cross state lines, there is a uniquely

federal interest in addressing the needs of these youth. For a quarter of a century, the federal RHYA programs have helped to meet the needs of these young people, prevent their involvement in criminal activity, and provide them with a doorway to a safe and productive future.

I ask unanimous consent that copies of both of their letters be printed in the RECORD at the conclusion of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. (See Exhibit 1.)

Under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, each year each State is awarded a Basic Center grant for housing and crisis services for runaway and homeless children and their families. The funding is based on its juvenile population, with a minimum grant of \$100,000 currently awarded to smaller States, such as Vermont. Effective community-based programs around the country can also apply directly for the funding available for the Transitional Living Program and the Sexual Abuse Prevention/Street Outreach grants. The Transitional Living Program grants are used to provide longer term housing to homeless teens age 16 to 21, and to help these teenagers become more self-sufficient. The Sexual Abuse Prevention/Street Outreach Program also targets teens who have engaged in or are at risk of engaging in high risk behaviors while living on the street.

Vermont's Coalition for Runaway and Homeless Youth and the Spectrum Youth and Family Services in Burlington, Vermont, have developed very comprehensive and effective programs to assist both teens who are learning to be self-sufficient and those who are struggling to survive on the streets. As such, Vermont programs have been successful in applying for these two specialized programs and have been on the forefront of developing and improving the services available to runaway and homeless youth across the U.S.

The Leahy-Hatch substitute language to S. 249 that was reported from the Judiciary Committee is intended to recognize the important work of these programs in Vermont, as well as the many other programs and staff across the U.S. that are working effectively with runaway and homeless youth and their families. This substitute language preserves current law governing the minimum grants available for small States for the Basic Center grants and also preserves the current confidentiality and records protections for runaway and homeless youth.

In addition, our substitute amendment reauthorizes the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Rural Demonstration Projects for an additional five years. This program provides targeted assistance to States with rural juvenile populations. Programs serving runaway and homeless youth have found that those in rural areas are particularly difficult to reach and serve effectively.

For those who do not think rural areas have significant numbers of runaway youth, I note that in fiscal year

1998, the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs and Spectrum Youth & Family Services served 1,067 young people and 1,345 family members in their programs throughout Vermont. This was an 8 percent increase in cases from fiscal year 1997. These numbers have been increasing rapidly over the past few years with a 175 percent increase in the number of youth served by the Vermont Coalition between 1992 and 1998. An area of special concern is the increasing number of young people who are being "pushed" out of their homes—those numbers increased 263 percent between 1993 and 1997 in Vermont. This is in addition to the hundreds of children each year who find themselves homeless or who have run away from home.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act does more than shelter these children in need. As the National Network for Youth has stressed, the Act's programs "provide critical assistance to youth in high-risk situations all over the country." This Act also ensures that these children and their families have access to important services, such as individual, family or group counseling, alcohol and drug counseling and a myriad of other resources to help these young people and their families get back on track. As a result of this multi-pronged approach to helping runaway and homeless youth, the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth was able to establish 81 percent of the youth served in 1998 in a "positive living situation" by the end of services. The Vermont Coalition and Spectrum Youth & Family Services should be applauded for their important work and I believe the best way to do that is to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Act for five more years, so programs like these in Vermont have some greater financial security in the future.

I want to thank the many advocates who have worked with me to improve the bill and, in particular, the dedicated members of the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs and the National Network for Youth for their suggestions and assistance. Without these dedicated public spirited citizens these programs could not be successful.

EXHIBIT 1

VERMONT COALITION OF RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH PROGRAMS,

Montpelier, VT, March 9, 1999.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,
U.S. Senator, Committee on the Judiciary,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: Thank you very much for your efforts in working for the reauthorization of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. We believe that reauthorization of this legislation is very important for runaway and homeless youths and their families in Vermont, and all over the nation.

Early interventions such as those authorized under this act: the transitional living programs, crisis response and family reunification services, and peer street outreach programs are, in many cases, the only helping resource available to runaway and homeless

young people and families in crisis. These services are much less costly and more effective than later, more drastic interventions runaway and homeless youths often eventually encounter, such as substance abuse treatment and incarceration.

The Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs supports the Leahy-Hatch substitute to S-249, the Bill which passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 4th, 1999. We urge passage of this Bill by the full Senate, and feel confident that our colleagues at the National Network for Youth, and runaway and homeless youth providers all over the country also support this important legislation.

We are very grateful for the way that you and your staff have worked with us to determine the needs of this vulnerable population, and the way that we can best address those needs. Karen Marangi, counsel for your office, has been diligent in her efforts to meet with us and our youthful program participants, keep us informed about your actions in Committee, and use the data which we have provided to help steer the best course. We commend you for your vision and energy in pursuing the reauthorization of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. Please let us know if we can be helpful to you as you continue this good work.

Sincerely,

J.C. MYERS,
VCRHYP Coordinator.

NATIONAL NETWORK FOR YOUTH,
Washington, DC, March 10, 1999.

Senator ORRIN HATCH,

U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Senator PATRICK LEAHY,

U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR HATCH AND SENATOR LEAHY: On behalf of the hundreds of non-profit youth-serving organizations, youth workers and young people from around the nation who constitute the membership of the National Network for Youth, I would like to express our deep appreciation for your leadership in moving the revised Hatch/Leahy substitute version of S. 249—legislation to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, together with the Missing Children's Assistance Act—through the Senate Judiciary Committee last week, and to express our hope that your continued leadership on this legislation will enable it to move to swift approval by the full Senate.

The Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs support community-based efforts that constitute a vital life-line to young people in high-risk situations all over the country. As you know, the RHYA includes three major grant programs: the Basis Center Program, which provides grants to support temporary shelter for youth (under age 18) and counseling for youth and their families, in order to assist them in a time of crisis; the Transitional Living Program, which provides grants to support longer-term (up to 18 months) shelter as well as independent living services to youth (age 16-21) who are unable to return home safely, in order to promote their successful transition to adulthood and self-sufficiency; and the Street Outreach Program, which provides grants to support street-based outreach and education to runaway, homeless and street youth who have been sexually abused or are at risk of sexual abuse, in order to connect these most vulnerable youth with services and a chance for a safe and healthy future.

The following are a few key points about runaway and homeless youth—and the programs which provide them critical supports and opportunities—which you may consider

as you move this legislation to the Senate floor:

Runaway and homeless youth are not running TO anything; they're running FROM homes where they have experienced extreme parental neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse, or other situations like family violence or parental alcoholism or substance abuse; some of these youth have been failed by the child welfare system, and perceive the streets as preferable to endless shuffling from one foster home or group home to another.

Runaway and homeless youth face numerous dangers on the streets: lack of education, health care and job training opportunities; increased risk of substance abuse, depression, early pregnancy, and HIV infection; and the dangers of physical and sexual assault from adults who prey on these young people.

The federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs support cost-effective community-based services for these youth, to protect them from the harms of life on the streets and either reunify them safely with family or find alternative appropriate placements.

Because runaway and homeless youth often cross state lines, there is a uniquely federal interest in addressing the needs of these youth. For a quarter of a century, the federal RHYA programs have helped to meet the needs of these young people, prevent their involvement in criminal activity, and provide them with a doorway to a safe and productive future.

Thank you for your hard work in reauthorizing these vital programs for our nation's most vulnerable youth.

Sincerely,

MIRIAM A. ROLLIN,
Director of Public Policy.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute be agreed to, the bill be considered read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The committee substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 249), as amended, read the third time and passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination on the Executive Calendar: No. 21. I ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, any statements relating to the nomination appear at this point in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Robert Wayne Gee, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Fossil Energy).