

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall it pass? On this question, the yeas and nays have been ordered, and the clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber who desire to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 180 Leg.]

YEAS—98

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Abraham | Enzi | Lott |
| Akaka | Feingold | Lugar |
| Allard | Feinstein | Mack |
| Ashcroft | Fitzgerald | McConnell |
| Baucus | Frist | Mikulski |
| Bayh | Gorton | Moynihan |
| Bennett | Graham | Murkowski |
| Biden | Gramm | Murray |
| Bingaman | Grams | Nickles |
| Bond | Grassley | Reed |
| Boxer | Gregg | Reid |
| Breaux | Hagel | Robb |
| Brownback | Harkin | Roberts |
| Bryan | Hatch | Rockefeller |
| Bunning | Helms | Roth |
| Burns | Hollings | Santorum |
| Byrd | Hutchinson | Schumer |
| Campbell | Hutchison | Sessions |
| Chafee | Inhofe | Shelby |
| Cleland | Inouye | Smith (NH) |
| Cochran | Jeffords | Smith (OR) |
| Collins | Johnson | Snowe |
| Conrad | Kennedy | Specter |
| Coverdell | Kerrey | Stevens |
| Craig | Kerry | Thomas |
| Crapo | Kohl | Thompson |
| Daschle | Kyl | Thurmond |
| DeWine | Landrieu | Torricelli |
| Dodd | Lautenberg | Voinovich |
| Domenici | Leahy | Warner |
| Dorgan | Levin | Wellstone |
| Durbin | Lieberman | Wyden |
| Edwards | Lincoln | |

NAYS—1

Sarbanes

NOT VOTING—1

McCain

The bill (S. 886), as amended, was passed, as follows:

[The bill was not available for printing. It will appear in a future issue of the RECORD.]

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa is recognized under the order.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent Claire Bowman and Sarah Wilhelm, interns in my office, be granted the privilege of the floor.

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

CHILD LABOR

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I was talking this morning about a very significant event that transpired last week in Geneva on June 17. It was a historic event in the battle to end the scourge of abusive and exploitative

child labor. By a unanimous vote, the International Labor Organization's member states, including the United States, approved a new convention banning the worst forms of child labor.

For the first time in history, the world spoke with one voice in opposition to abusive and exploitative child labor. Countries from across the political, economic, and religious spectrum—from Jewish to Muslim, from Buddhists to Christians—came together to proclaim unequivocally that “abusive and exploitative child labor is a practice which will not be tolerated and must be abolished.”

Gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is an acceptable practice because of a country's economic circumstances. Gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is acceptable because of cultural traditions. And gone is the argument that abusive and exploitative child labor is a necessary evil on the road to economic development. The United States and the international community as a whole unanimously for the first time laid those arguments to rest and laid the groundwork to begin the process of ending the scourge of abusive and exploitative child labor.

Mr. President, for the better part of a decade, I have been in my own capacity working to do what I can to end abusive and exploitative child labor around the globe, including in the United States. The ILO estimates that there are about 250 million children worldwide, many as young as 6 or 7, who are working. These are not just part-time jobs. Many of them work in dangerous environments which are detrimental to their emotional, physical, and moral well-being.

Last year, I traveled with my staff to Katmandu, Nepal, and also to Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. We were able to witness firsthand the abuse of child labor.

This chart shows a plant we went to in Katmandu. It was on a Sunday. I was taken there by a young man who had previously been a child laborer. On the outside of the gate there was this sign in both Nepalese and English: Child labour under the age of 14 is strictly prohibited.

I actually took this picture. Because we had information that the owner was gone and this young man I was with knew the guard at the gate, we were let in. When we were let in, I started taking pictures. This is one of many pictures I have of some of the young children working in that plant. We determined their ages to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 7 or 8 years. This was about 7 or 8 o'clock on a Sunday night. These kids were working in very dusty, dirty conditions, and this shows them as virtual slaves, unable to leave, unable to do anything but work at the rug plant.

This gives a little idea of the child labor I was able to glimpse on my trip. Had they known we were coming to that plant, they would have taken the

children out the back door and we would not have seen any children there. They would have said: See, we don't have any child labor.

That is why it took a surreptitious action on my part to get in and take the pictures, so that I could get proof of the child labor and the deplorable conditions which occur not just in Nepal, but all over the world.

In India, I met children who were liberated from hand-knotted carpet factories where they were chained—chained, Mr. President—to looms and forced to work as many as 12 hours a day, 7 days a week. These children were nothing more than slaves. They earned no money. They received no education. They had no hope for a future until they were freed by the South Asian Coalition Against Child Servitude, headed by Kailash Satyarthi.

I have a chart prepared with ILO data. We see Latin America and the Caribbean have about 17 million children working; Africa, 80 million; Asia, 153 million; and about half a million in Oceania. That comes down to a total of about 250 million children worldwide.

Again, I want to be clear that we are not just talking about kids working after school, working part-time. That is not it at all. The convention that the ILO adopted deals with children who are chained to looms, handle dangerous chemicals, ingest metal dust, are forced to sell illegal drugs, forced into prostitution, forced into armed conflict, some of whom who work in glass factories where furnace temperatures exceed 1,500 degrees. These children are forced to work with no protective equipment. They work only for the economic gains of others. This is in sharp contrast to any kind of a part-time job for some spending money for the latest CD.

In this picture, taken in the Sialkot region of Pakistan, 8-year-old Mohammad Ashraf Irfan is making surgical equipment. He is 8 years old working around hot metal and sharp instruments. He has no protective clothing on at all, not even for his eyes. This is his lot in life at the ripe old age of 8. This is what the convention, adopted in Geneva last week, will start preventing.

Mr. President, as you and many of my colleagues know, President Clinton traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, last week to address the International Labor Organization's conference. He is the first President in U.S. history to address the ILO in its 80-year history. Imagine that. I was privileged to be asked to accompany the President for this historic event.

In his address to the ILO, President Clinton spoke eloquently of the crying need to protect all children from abusive and exploitative labor. The President said, in part:

There are some things we cannot and will not tolerate. We will not tolerate children being used in pornography and prostitution. We will not tolerate children in slavery or bondage. We will not

tolerate children being forcibly recruited to serve in armed conflicts. We will not tolerate young children risking their health and breaking their bodies in hazardous and dangerous working conditions for hours unconscionably long—regardless of country, regardless of circumstance.

I cannot agree more. I was very proud of President Clinton—proud that he was the first U.S. President in history to address the ILO, proud that he focused his remarks on the issue of child labor and on his support for this convention.

I will briefly describe the new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the convention be printed in the RECORD following my remarks.

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

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. HARKIN. The convention defines the worst forms as being all forms of slavery, debt bondage, forced or compulsory labor, the sale and trafficking of children, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict, child prostitution, children producing and trafficking in narcotic drugs, or any other work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, the safety, or morals of children. It also defines a child as any person under the age of 18.

Mr. President, this is what we are talking about. Look at this young girl in this photograph. We do not know her age, but from all accounts, people who know this area say she is probably less than 9 years old. She and her two friends have straps around their heads, and she is carrying what looks like seven big blocks or bricks on her back which are much to heavy for such a small child and are doing permanent damage to her spine and neck. She is barefoot and hunched over. As you can see, her friends of an equal age are carrying a similar load.

These are the worst forms of child labor. That is what this convention is all about. The convention calls on the ILO member states to take immediate and effective actions to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

I am looking at a chart, which is a photo of another young girl in India carrying construction material on her head. One can see her arms are straight, her face is dirty and sweaty, and she should be in school rather than having all this construction material, about 30 or 40 pounds piled on the top of her head. She is also doing permanent damage to her neck and spine. This is the sort of gross labor abuse the convention seeks to end.

As I said, the convention defines a child for these purposes as any child under the age of 18. It calls on member states to implement action plans to move children from the workplace to the classroom. UNICEF reports that over 1 billion adults will be function-

ally illiterate on the eve of the new millennium because they worked as children and were denied an education.

That is why I am especially pleased about the importance the convention placed on education as a principal means for reducing instances of abusive and exploitative child labor. I believe very strongly that these child laborers must go from exploitation to education.

This chart shows a list of what the convention abolishes: Child slavery, child bondage, child prostitution, children in pornography, trafficking in children, forced recruitment of children for armed conflict, recruitment of children in the production or sale of narcotics, and hazardous work by children.

But, let me come back to the forced recruitment of children for armed conflict for just a moment. We do not have forced recruitment in the United States for children. But I am aware our Armed Forces are able to recruit children who are 17 years of age. Quite frankly, we need a debate in this body about whether or not we ought to allow that to continue. I, for one, believe that the armed services ought to be held in abeyance from recruiting and signing up young people in the armed services until they at least reach the age of 18. But that is a debate for another time.

As I stated earlier, I believe that children should go from exploitation to education. We visited a very important milestone in this effort in Dacca, Bangladesh, last year when we found almost 10,000 young children, mostly girls—about 90 percent—who had been working in the garment factories. After an historic agreement with the help of the ILO and the Bangladeshi Garment Manufacturers Export Association, these children were moved out of the garment factories and into about 353 schools established in Dacca for this sole purpose.

We visited a couple of those schools, and I will just tell you, looking at these young girls, who maybe a year before could not read or write, now were standing up and reciting whole passages from books, being able to write, and you could see in their eyes they are not going to go back to exploitation.

The people in Bangladesh, in the government and in industry, said it is probably one of the best things that has happened to them, because they are going to have a more highly educated workforce, a more productive workforce, and that means their whole standard of living is going to increase.

The convention adopted last week also calls on all member nations to identify and reach out to children at special risk and to take into account the special situation of girls with regard to education. And I am also very pleased about that provision.

There are many other important elements contained in the convention which I have not mentioned. I encour-

age all of my colleagues to read this document thoroughly.

I would also mention another historic fact about this convention.

For the first time in its history, the U.S. tripartite group to the ILO, which consists of representatives from government, business and labor, went to Geneva to negotiate on this important convention, and they unanimously agreed on the final version.

So I commend Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman and the other members of the U.S. delegation, including Mr. John Sweeney, the president of the AFL-CIO, and Ed Potter, from the U.S. Council on International Business, for their leadership on this convention.

With the adoption of the new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, the ILO has written an important new chapter in our effort to honor our values and protect our children.

Today, in recognition of this effort, I offered a sense-of-the-Senate resolution regarding the International Labor Organization's new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor which was accepted as part of the managers' package. This amendment calls upon the President to promptly submit to the Senate the new convention. It commends the ILO member states for their negotiating efforts and states that it should be the policy of the United States to work with all foreign nations and international organizations to promote an end to abusive and exploitative child labor.

Again, it is my understanding that very shortly President Clinton will be transmitting this convention to the Senate for our consideration. I am hopeful that the Committee on Foreign Relations will take up the convention, have hearings on it, and report it out as soon as possible.

Again, with the unanimous support of labor, government and business, I see no reason why the United States should not be one of the first countries to ratify this new convention. So I am hopeful that before this session of the Congress ends that the Senate will act on it and ratify the Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

Once again, I thank Senators WELLSTONE, KOHL, LAUTENBERG, KENNEDY, DODD, TORRICELLI, WYDEN, and FEINGOLD for cosponsoring this important amendment.

EXHIBIT 1

A. PROPOSED CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION AND IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization.

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its 87th Session on 1 June 1999, and

Considering the need to adopt new instruments for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, as the main priority for national and international action, including international cooperation and assistance, to complement the Convention and Recommendation concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment,

1973, which remain fundamental instruments on child labour, and

Considering that the effective elimination of the worst forms of child labour requires immediate and comprehensive action, taking into account the importance of free basic education and the need to remove the children concerned from all such work and to provide for their rehabilitation and social integration while addressing the needs of their families, and

Recalling the Resolution concerning the elimination of child labour adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 83rd Session, in 1996.

Recognizing that child labour is to a great extent caused by poverty and that the long-term solution lies in sustained economic growth leading to social progress, in particular poverty alleviation and universal education, and

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 20 November 1989, and

Recalling the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 86th Session in 1998, and

Recalling that some of the worst forms of child labour are covered by other international instruments, in particular the Forced Labour Convention, 1930, and the United Nations Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, 1956, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to child labour, which is the fourth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of an international Convention;

adopts this 17th day of June of the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine the following Convention, which may be cited as the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999.

Article 1

Each Member which ratifies this Convention shall take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, as a matter of urgency

Article 2

For the purposes of this Convention, the term "child" shall apply to all persons under the age of 18.

Article 3

For the purposes of this Convention, the expression "the worst forms of child labour" comprises:

(a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the same and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

(b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

(c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;

(d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Article 4

1. The types of work referred to under Article 3(d) shall be determined by national laws or regulations or by the competent authority, after consultation with the organiza-

tions of employers and workers concerned, taking into consideration relevant international standards, in particular Paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999.

2. The competent authority, after consultation with the organizations of employers and workers concerned, shall identify where the types of work so determined exist.

3. The list of types of work determined under paragraph 1 of this Article shall be periodically examined and revised as necessary, in consultation with the organizations of employers and workers.

Article 5

Each Member shall, after consultation with employers' and workers' organizations, establish or designate appropriate mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the provisions giving effect to this Convention.

Article 6

1. Each Member shall design and implement programmes of action to eliminate as a priority the worst forms of child labour.

2. Such programmes of action shall be designed and implemented in consultation with relevant government institutions and employers' and workers' organizations, taking into consideration the views of other concerned groups as appropriate.

Article 7

1. Each Member shall take all necessary measures to ensure the effective implementation and enforcement of the provisions giving effect to this Convention including the provision and application of penal sanctions or, as appropriate, other sanctions.

2. Each Member shall, taking into account the importance of education in eliminating child labour, take effective and time-bound measures to:

(a) prevent the engagement of children in the worst forms of child labour;

(b) provide the necessary and appropriate direct assistance for the removal of children from the worst forms of child labour, and for their rehabilitation and social integration;

(c) ensure access to free basic education, and, wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training, for all children removed from the worst forms of child labour;

(d) identify and reach out to children at special risk; and

(e) take account of the special situation of girls.

3. Each Member shall designate the competent authority responsible for the implementation of the provisions giving effect to this Convention

Article 8

Members shall take appropriate steps to assist one another in giving effect to the provisions of this Convention through enhanced international cooperation and/or assistance, including support for social and economic development, poverty eradication programs, and universal education.

B. PROPOSED CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION AND IMMEDIATE ACTION FOR THE ELIMINATION OF THE WORST FORMS OF CHILD LABOUR

The General Conference of the International Labour Organization,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its 87th Session on 1 June 1999, and

Having adopted the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to child labour, which is the fourth item on the agenda of the session, and

Having determined that these proposals shall take the form of a Recommendation

supplementing the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999;

adopts this 17th day of June of the year one thousands nine hundred and ninety-nine the following Recommendation, which may be cited as the Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation, 1999.

1. The provisions of this Recommendation supplement those of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (hereafter referred to as "the Convention"), and should be applied in conjunction with them.

I. Programmes of action

2. The programmes of action referred to in Article 6 of the Convention should be designed and implemented, as a matter of urgency, in consultation with relevant government institutions and employers' and workers' organizations, taking into consideration the views of the children directly affected by the worst forms of child labour, their families and, as appropriate, other concerned groups committed to the aims of the Convention and this Recommendation. Such programs should aim at, *inter alia*:

(a) identifying and denouncing the worst forms of child labour;

(b) preventing the engagement of children in or removing them from the worst forms of child labour, protecting them from reprisals and providing for their rehabilitation and social integration through measures which address their educational, physical and psychological needs:

(c) giving special attention to:

(i) younger children;

(ii) the girl child;

(iii) the problem of hidden work situations, in which girls are at special risk;

(iv) other groups of children with special vulnerabilities or needs;

(d) identifying, reaching out to and working with communities where children are at special risk;

(e) informing, sensitizing and mobilizing public opinion and concerned groups, including children and their families.

II. Hazardous work

3. In determining the types of work referred to under Article 3(d) of the Convention, and in identifying where they exist, consideration should be given, *inter alia* to:

(a) work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;

(b) work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;

(c) work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;

(d) work in an unhealthy environment which may, for example, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or, to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;

(e) work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer.

4. For the types of work referred to under Article 3(d) of the Convention and Paragraph 3 above, national laws or regulations, or the competent authority, may, after consultation with the workers' and employers' organizations concerned, authorize employment or work as from the age of 16, on condition that the health, safety and morals of the children concerned are fully protected, and the children have received adequate specific instruction or vocational training in the relevant branch of activity.

III. Implementation

5. (1) Detailed information and statistical data on the nature and extent of child labour should be compiled and kept up to date to serve as a basis for determining priorities for

national action for the abolition of child labour, in particular for the prohibition and elimination of its worst forms, as a matter of urgency.

(2) As far as possible, such information and statistical data should include data disaggregated by sex, age group, occupation, branch of economic activity and status in employment, school attendance and geographical location. The importance of an effective system of birth registration, including the issuing of birth certificates, should be taken into account.

(3) Relevant data concerning violations of national provisions for the prohibition and immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour should be compiled and kept up to date.

6. The compilation and processing of the information and data referred to in Paragraph 5 above should be carried out with due regard for the right to privacy.

7. The information compiled under Paragraph 5 should be communicated to the International Labour Office on a regular basis.

8. Members should establish or designate appropriate national mechanisms to monitor the implementation of national provisions for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour after consultation with employers' and workers' organizations.

9. Members should ensure that the competent authorities which have responsibilities for implementing national provisions for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour cooperate with each other and coordinate their activities.

10. National laws or regulations or the competent authority should determine the persons to be held responsible in the event of non-compliance with national provisions for the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour.

11. Members should, in so far as it is compatible with national law, cooperate with international efforts aimed at the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour as a matter of urgency by:

(a) gathering and exchanging information concerning criminal offences, including those involving international networks;

(b) detecting and prosecuting those involved in the sale and trafficking of children, or in the use, procuring or offering of children for illicit activities, for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;

(c) registering perpetrators of such offences.

12. Members should provide that the following worst forms of child labour are criminal offences:

(a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;

(b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances, and

(c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties, or for activities which involve the unlawful carrying or use of firearms or other weapons.

13. Members should ensure that penalties including, where appropriate, criminal penalties are applied for violations of the national provisions for the prohibition and elimination of any type of work referred to in Article 3(d) of the Convention.

14. Members should also provide, as a matter of urgency, for other criminal, civil or

administrative remedies, where appropriate, to ensure the effective enforcement of national provisions for the prohibition and immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour, such as special supervision of enterprises which have used the worst forms of child labour, and, in cases of persistent violation, consideration of temporary or permanent revoking of permits to operate.

15. Other measures aimed at the prohibition and immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour might include the following:

(a) informing, sensitizing and mobilizing the general public, including national and local political leaders, parliamentarians and the judiciary;

(b) involving and training employers' and workers' organizations and civic organizations;

(c) providing appropriate training for government officials concerned, especially inspectors and law enforcement officials, and for other relevant professionals;

(d) providing for the prosecution in their own country of the Member's nationals who commit offences under its national provisions for the prohibition and immediate elimination of the worst forms of child labour even when these offences are committed in another country;

(e) simplifying legal and administrative procedures and ensuring that they are appropriate and prompt;

(f) encouraging the development of policies by undertakings to promote the aims of the Convention;

(g) monitoring and giving publicity to best practices on the elimination of child labour;

(h) giving publicity to legal or other provisions on child labour in the different languages or dialects;

(i) establishing special complaints procedures and making provisions to protect from discrimination and reprisals those who legitimately expose violations of the provisions of the Convention, as well as establishing help lines or points of contact and ombudspersons;

(j) adopting appropriate measures to improve the educational infrastructure and the training of teachers to meet the needs of boys and girls;

(k) as far as possible, taking into account in national programs of action the need for job creation and vocational training for the parents and adults in the families of the children working in the conditions covered by the Convention and the need for sensitizing parents on the problem of children working in such conditions.

16. Enhanced international cooperation and/or assistance among Members for the prohibition and effective elimination of the worst forms of child labour should complement national efforts and may, as appropriate, be developed and implemented in consultation with employers' and workers' organizations. Such international cooperation and/or assistance should include:

(a) mobilizing resources for national or international programmes;

(b) mutual legal assistance;

(c) technical assistance including the exchange of information;

(d) support for social and economic development, poverty eradication programmes and universal education.

ILO CONVENTION

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, as my good friend from Delaware is aware, last week the International Labor Organization (ILO) unanimously adopted a new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor. This Convention calls on ILO Member States to take immediate and effective actions to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Convention also defines the worst forms of child labor as: all forms of slavery, debt bondage, forced or compulsory labor, or the sale and trafficking of children, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; child prostitution; children producing and trafficking of narcotic drugs; or any other work which by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety, or morals of children. It also defines a child as any person under the age of 18.

I was privileged to travel with the President to the ILO where he addressed the delegates on child labor and affirmed the United States Government support of this important Convention.

Would the Senator from Delaware agree that this important and historic Convention should be considered as a high priority item and considered in a timely fashion after submission to the Senate by the President?

Mr. BIDEN. My friend from Iowa is correct. This is an important Convention and I assure you that from my point of view this new Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor should be a high priority. I am aware that this Convention pertains to abolishing child slavery, child prostitution and other hazardous work endangering a child's well-being. Therefore, I will work with the Chairman of the Committee to try to bring this treaty before the Committee as soon as practical after it is submitted by the President.

THE PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I will make a few comments about the importance of managed care reform and the importance of passing a strong Patients' Bill of Rights in this Congress.

The bill that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want us to consider, I believe, is fundamentally flawed. First, it fails to cover two-thirds of privately insured Americans. Secondly, it fails to prevent insurers from arbitrarily interfering with the decisions of a patient's treating physician. And, third, it is weak in giving consumers the right to sue their insurance companies for faulty decisions to withhold care.

Today, I want to focus on a few issues that have critical importance to me: access to specialty care, network adequacy, and genetic discrimination.

When we marked up the bill in the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, I offered an amendment to ensure that patients have access to the specialty care they need. I intend to offer it again if we are ever allowed a full and fair debate on this bill.

This is a critical issue for people with disabilities, women with breast cancer, and others with chronic health conditions. But it is important for all Americans. The inability to access specialists is the number-one reason people