

homeless youths in 1992. This number increased to 1,067 in 1997. In 1998, 61 percent of the youths served were 15, 16 or 17 years old.

The Coalition programs are the "who you gonna' call" in cases of family crisis and runaway incidents. They are a critical part of Vermont's ability to respond pro-actively when youths and families are in crisis, and to prevent the need for later, more costly services.

The Coalition average cost per client in fiscal year 1998 was \$1,471. Each client has different needs which could mean a week of service, a month, or the entire year. The service could include housing, family counseling, or any of the array of services offered the Coalition programs. The average time a case was open in fiscal year 1998 was 54 days.

The relative costs of various services available to youths experiencing problems frequently associated with runaway and "push-out" incidents and other serious family conflict is dramatically higher. For fiscal year 1998, the costs for a bed in Vermont's Juvenile Detention system was over \$69,000; a bed in a in-patient adolescent substance abuse treatment facility was over \$54,000.

The Vermont Coalition programs provide early interventions that are more humane, and more cost effective. When one youth is diverted from entering state custody, the state of Vermont saves \$19,761. If 102 young people, or 9 percent of the 1,067 youths served in fiscal year 1998, were diverted from entering SRS Custody, then Vermont saves over \$2,000,000—four times the amount of dollars Vermont currently receives under the RHYA for service to runaway and homeless youths.

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 re-authorize the Runaway and Homeless Act, 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 over the years 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.

The other important piece of S. 249 is authorizing the nation's resource center for child protection, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). This center spearheads national efforts to locate and recover missing children and raises public awareness about ways to prevent child abduction, molestation, and sexual exploitation.

Since 1984, when the center was established, it has handled more than 1.3 million calls through its national Hotline 1-800-THE-LOST; trained more than 151,755 police and other profes-

sionals; and published more than 17 million publications that are distributed free of charge. The center has worked with law enforcement on more than 65,173 missing child cases, resulting in the recovery of 46,031 children.

Since its creation, the center has helped 83 Vermont missing child cases and has helped resolve 82 of them. Nationwide, prior to 1990, the child recovery rate of the center was 62 percent. From 1990 through 1998, even with increasing caseloads, the recovery of children that are reported to the center has reached 91.8 percent.

Last year, the center launched a new CyberTipline. It allows Internet users to report such things as suspicious or illegal activity, including child pornography and online enticement of children for sexual exploitation.

Each month NCMEC brings chiefs and sheriffs together for special training. To date, the center has trained 728 of these law enforcement officials from all fifty states, including chiefs from Dover, Hartford, Brattleboro, and Winooski, Vermont and representatives from our State Police force.

The center also trains state and local police on crimes against children in cyberspace. Although this program has just begun, already 103 Unit Commanders from 34 states, including Vermont have been trained. In February of this year, Captain David Rich of the Hartford, Vermont Police Department attended this course.

The NCMEC trainers conducted a statewide infant abduction prevention seminar for the Vermont Chapter of the Association of the Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses, attended by 252 nurses and security staff, and conducted site audits at two Vermont hospitals.

I applaud the ongoing work of the Center and hope that the Senate will promptly pass this bill so that they can proceed with their important activities with fewer funding concerns.

Mr. President, S. 249, the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act, should be passed without further delay.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE U.S. AIR FORCE

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I say to my colleagues in the Senate and to those listening everywhere, I rise to congratulate the U.S. Air Force on their gallantry and their bravery in risking their lives to take much-needed medicine to a woman who is now a scientist working in Antarctica on a National Science Foundation expedition.

This woman recently discovered a lump in her breast and needs medical treatment. She cannot leave Antarctica until the middle of October because of the horrendous weather conditions. She can't get out and nobody can get to her. But God bless the U.S. Air Force. They were willing to step forward at great risk to themselves to take the much-needed medicine, and at

a very specific moment, drop the six packages that will be able to provide her with treatment, through the genius of telemedicine.

Imagine the terror of a woman who discovers a lump in her breast. Imagine if this lump is discovered while you are serving at a remote research station on the South Pole, which is completely inaccessible during many months of the year. A plane has never landed on the South Pole during the winter. So how could she hope to get the medical supplies she needed for treatment?

This is the situation faced by a woman serving at the National Science Foundation's Amundsen-Scott research station at the South Pole. She could neither leave the station nor expect outside help until October. We all know when a lump is discovered, immediate treatment is essential. That is part of what we have been arguing about.

But guess what. This is when our U.S. Air Force became involved. We are all so proud of what they do to protect America's values and interests around the world. Most recently, they were successful in ending genocide and ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

But on this mission to the South Pole, they were called on to act as humanitarians. Flying from New Zealand, the 23-person crew had to fly their aircraft for nearly a 7,000-mile round trip. They had limited visibility. They had to make their drop with great precision—since the medicine and equipment could not be exposed to the harsh conditions for more than a few minutes. Personnel on the ground also showed great skill and courage. They came outside in 70-below degree weather to plot the drop site with a great big letter "C" so the supplies could be dropped in the right spot, and they could be there at the right time to get it.

All Americans were awed by their skill and bravery. It was led by Major Greg Pike and his crew. They made their drop successfully, returned safely, and the supplies are now being used.

For those of us who saw the news, we know the U.S. Air Force risked themselves because if that plane ran into difficulty, they were at a point of no return. When they opened up the plane to be able to drop this much-needed medicine, they had to put special gear on because they themselves were facing temperatures at 150 degrees below zero. But they did it because they had the "right stuff" to make sure she had the right medicine. I tell you, it was quite a moment to see. Those great guys also sent her a bouquet of flowers and pictures of themselves and their families.

Mr. President, this also reminds us of the bravery of our National Science Foundation staff who have also worked in very difficult conditions to conduct the important scientific research.

We say to her, to the lady in the Antarctic, if she can watch us on C-SPAN: God bless you. We are pulling for you,

and we say here in the Senate, God bless the U.S. Air Force.

I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4206. A communication from the Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Battling International Bribery", dated July 1999; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4207. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4208. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the emigration laws and policies of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4209. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Bureau of Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule to Amend 31 CFR Part 306 to Prohibit Bearer Reissues", received July 6, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4210. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Early Referral of Issues to Appeals" (Revenue Procedure 99-28, 1999-29 I.R.B.), received July 13, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4211. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice 99-37, Information Reporting for Tuition Tax Credits and Qualified Student Loan Interest" (Notice 99-37), received July 12, 1999; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4212. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fosetyl-Al; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL # 6372-3), received July 7, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4213. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tebufenozide; Benzoic Acid, 3,5-dimethyl-1-1-(1,1-dimethylethyl)-2-(4-ethylbenzoyl) hydrazide; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL # 6088-8), received July 7, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4214. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imidacloprid; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions" (FRL # 6088-3), received July 13, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4215. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and

Information, Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Myclobutanol; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions; Correction" (FRL # 6089-2), received July 13, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4216. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sweet Cherries Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Change in Pick Requirements" (Docket No. FV99-923-1 IFR), received July 6, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4217. A communication from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Cranberries Grown in the States of Massachusetts, et al.; Temporary Suspension of a Provision on Producer Continuance Referenda Under the Cranberry Marketing Order" (Docket No. FV99-929-1 FIR), received July 6, 1999; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4218. A communication from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation relative to improving and reforming the administration of Department programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4219. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Records Management and Declassification Agency, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Manufacture, Sale, Wear, Commercial Use and Quality Control of Heraldic Items" (32 CFR Part 507), received June 28, 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4220. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Records Management and Declassification Agency, Department of the Army, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Radiation Sources on Army Land" (32 CFR Part 655), received June 28, 1999; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4221. A communication from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Designation for Critical Habitat for the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow" (RIN1018-AF72), received June 30, 1999; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4222. A communication from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Assumptions for Valuing Benefits", received July 12, 1999; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4223. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981, a report of the allotment of emergency funds to 16 States and the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4224. A communication from the Executive Secretary, President's Cancer Panel, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Cancer Care Issues in the United States: Quality of Care, Quality of Life" for the period January 1, 1997 to December 31, 1998; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4225. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Crustacean Fisheries; Bank-Specific Harvest Guidelines" (RIN0648-XA31), received July 12, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4226. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Crustacean Fisheries; Bank-Specific Harvest Guidelines" (RIN0648-AK61), received July 12, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4227. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Atqasuk, AK; Docket No. 99-AAL-3 (7-7-8)" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0218), received July 8, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4228. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Yakutat, AK; Docket No. 99-AAL-2 (7-7-8)" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0220), received July 8, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4229. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revision of Class E Airspace; Adak, AK; Docket No. 99-AAK-9 (7-7-8)" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0219), received July 8, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4230. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace; Palmer, AK; Docket No. 99-AAL-5 (7-7-8)" (RIN2120-AA66) (1999-0217), received July 8, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4231. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (104); Amdt. No. 1937 (7-1/7-8)" (RIN2120-AA65) (1999-0032), received July 8, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4232. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments (43); Amdt. No. 1938 (7-1/7-8)" (RIN2120-AA65) (1999-0033), received July 8, 1999; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4233. A communication from the Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives: Eurocopter