

associated with the Rose City gun shows at the Expo Center.

And the report gives examples of that criminal activity. Here is an example:

Three subjects were observed in the gun show wearing gang attire. The three subjects were looking for dealers who do not do background checks. One of the subjects attempted to purchase a Glock pistol without any paperwork. The subjects bought 4 high capacity magazines and exited the show. Officers contacted the subjects and found one subject all in red to be 12 years old. The second subject all in blue had a warrant for his arrest. The last subject was found to be an ex-felon. The two adults were arrested and transported to NE precinct. At the NE precinct officers found marijuana packaged for sale and \$1,150 in the last subject's shoe. He was charged with delivery of a controlled substance.

So we have gang members—drug dealers—using a gun show as a convenience store for guns. These gang members were looking for gun sellers who were not required to do criminal background checks.

And this testimony is similar to what we heard from Robyn Anderson when she testified before the Colorado legislature. She is the young woman who went with Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold to the Tanner Gun Show in Adams County, Colorado.

She testified that Harris and Klebold went from table to table at the gun show, looking for gun sellers who were not required to complete a background check.

With her help, Harris and Klebold bought two shotguns and a rifle without a criminal background check. And everybody knows what happened after that. They used those guns to murder fellow students and a teacher at Columbine High School. How much more do we need to know before we do the sensible thing and close this loophole?

Gang members and teenagers bent on committing murder know they can go to a gun show and get a firearm if they want, without a background check. Is there anyone around here who actually thinks that is all right? Good friends on the other side, good friends on both sides will sometimes defend gun ownership blindly. But we should all agree that you should not be able to buy a gun without identifying yourself and having a criminal background check.

The gun lobby says we do not need a new law, all we need to do is enforce the current law. But that completely misses the point. There is a loophole in the law, so when you try to enforce it, criminals simply slip through the loophole. This hole in our gun laws is leaking human lives and we ought to plug it before someone else is killed with a pistol or shotgun purchased at a gun show without a background check. People ought to identify themselves when they buy a gun. Why not?

Some of our colleagues who argue against closing this loophole are the same people who go on and on about the need to get tough on crime. But when it comes to this gaping loophole in our gun laws, they are strangely

quiet. All of us know why. Those tough-on-crime Members do not hear the huge majority of the people. Ninety percent of the people in this country, according to a recent poll, are calling for us to close this loophole. They do not hear the cries, see the tears of those who have lost a child, a friend, a relative. But what do they hear? They hear the NRA making deposits to their campaign accounts. They hear the NRA saying: Do nothing and we will keep these campaign contributions coming.

I have been fighting this battle for a long time, almost a year now on this specific issue. Back on May 20, 9 months ago, the Senate passed my amendment to close the gun show loophole. It passed 51-50, with a huge struggle. But the Congress has yet to finish the job because the NRA has been putting its money to work making sure my amendment stays bottled up in a conference committee.

Let's do the right thing and set this legislation free. Let's not allow extremists in the gun lobby to prevail over the families across this country who want to stop the gun violence.

April 20 will mark 1 year since the terrible tragedy at Columbine High School. On that day, people across this country will ask, What has Congress done? What have you done to stop gun violence in this country? What have you done to protect my child, my grandchild, my brother, my sister, my parents from this mad gun violence? It is not too late to give the public the answer they want, the answer they deserve. It is not too late to show them that common sense can prevail in this distinguished place.

AWARDING JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to thank my distinguished Senate colleagues for their support, help, consideration, and, hopefully, passage of S. 2076, legislation which will bestow upon John Cardinal O'Connor the Congressional Medal of Honor.

I, along with Senators MOYNIHAN, SPECTER, and SANTORUM, introduced this bill last week. We believe now is the perfect time for Congress to publicly thank His Eminence for his 50 years of service to America, the Catholic Church, and for his numerous contributions as an ambassador of peace, freedom, and humanitarianism around the world.

Since being ordained 54 years ago, John Cardinal O'Connor has humbly captured the hearts of millions with a message of caring and compassion for all people. He has dutifully served the Church in Philadelphia, the Diocese of Scranton, and now from the steps of the treasured St. Patrick's Cathedral serves as the spiritual guiding force for the 10-county New York Archdiocese and its more than 2.3 million Catholic members.

He is loved in New York and by Catholics across the country. He has touched the hearts of millions whose spiritual life is richer from the words and deeds of our cardinal.

Since being named by the Pope as successor to the late Cardinal Terence Cook in 1984, Cardinal O'Connor has sought to reinforce the traditional teachings and practices of the Roman Catholic Church while putting a human face on the problems faced not only by Catholics but all New Yorkers.

He has advocated for an increase in the minimum wage. He has advocated for farm workers. He has advocated for working people throughout New York and throughout the world.

He has worked hard to improve relationships between Catholics and Jews, knowing that is so important to the future of the area he represents and to all Americans.

He has advocated relentlessly for fairness and justice. And even while reaffirming the Church's teachings on homosexuality, he set up AIDS clinics and volunteered anonymously in them.

I have not always agreed with Cardinal O'Connor. For example, he is a strong, vocal, and impassioned voice in opposition to abortion. I have respectfully disagreed with his position. But in some instances you earn an even greater respect for someone by the way they disagree with you, how they fight for their beliefs: With vigor, passion, and conviction, but also with humility and grace.

He is a man of immense conviction. He has been unyielding in his commitment to reaffirm the priorities of the Church and his faith.

I am left with nothing but respect and admiration for the way in which Cardinal O'Connor has advocated on behalf of his beliefs.

John Cardinal O'Connor's life of spiritual service began decades ago. He had 20-plus years of distinguished service in the Armed Forces. He heeded our Nation's call in 1952, joining the ranks of the military chaplaincy during the Korean war, and provided spiritual leadership for members of the Navy and Marine Corps during Vietnam. His career continued on as chaplain to the United States Naval Academy.

Eventually he rose with distinction to become Navy chief chaplain. He served in that capacity until 1979, upon which he retired from military service with the distinguished rank of rear admiral. An international ambassador for humanity, Cardinal O'Connor has traveled the world over—Israel, Jordan, Haiti, Bosnia, and Russia—and he also accompanied Pope John Paul II on his visit to Cuba.

He has called on governments to work for social development, provide international peace, and implored governments to provide their citizens with the freedom and ability to exercise their religious beliefs.

His work in volatile 1980s Central America helped clear the way for clergy members to be allowed to visit political prisoners and also helped end

the expulsion of foreign missionaries. He has, with great resolve, worked to strengthen the human spirit whenever war, oppression, and poverty have threatened to weaken it, as a servant of the Roman Catholic Church and a compassionate American citizen.

Now the cardinal is ailing. We all pray and wish for his recovery. But there is no time more appropriate than now for the Congressional Gold Medal to be bestowed upon Cardinal O'Connor. It is not often that this gold medal is issued. But given the cardinal's service, given the cardinal's ability to reach out to so many different kinds of people, no one is more deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal. The medal is an expression of public gratitude reserved exclusively for those who have distinguished themselves through their achievements and contributions to our great Nation. From his spiritual guidance to the members of the Armed Forces 50 years ago to his commitment to justice and holiness as head of the archdiocese in New York today, John Cardinal O'Connor has earned this rare and distinguished congressional honor.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AFFORDABLE EDUCATION ACT OF 1999—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 2844

(Purpose: To make permanent the special coordination rule between qualified tuition programs and the Hope and Lifetime Learning credits)

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Graham amendment No. 2844 be called up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Florida [Mr. GRAHAM] proposes an amendment numbered 2844.

The amendment is as follows:

Beginning on page 15, line 16, strike all through page 16, line 17, and insert:

“(iv) COORDINATION WITH HOPE AND LIFETIME LEARNING CREDITS.—The total amount of qualified higher education expenses otherwise taken into account under clause (i) with respect to an individual for any taxable year shall be reduced (after the application of the reduction provided in section 25A(g)(2)) by the amount of such expenses which were taken into account in determining the credit allowed to the taxpayer or any other person under section 25A with respect to such expenses.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table. This is not the amendment the

Senator from Florida described earlier and has been vetted to the Finance Committee.

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

The amendment (No. 2844) was agreed to.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as in morning business for no more than 10 minutes.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire pertaining to the introduction of S. Con. Res. 87 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

RECESS

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

There being no objection, at 1:08 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:02 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BUNNING).

AFFORDABLE EDUCATION ACT OF 1999—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 2825

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, with respect to the series of stacked votes that are about to begin, there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote for closing remarks.

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

Mr. COVERDELL. It is my understanding the first vote we are about to proceed to is the Abraham amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct. The yeas and nays have not been asked for.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, very briefly, this amendment would essentially expand the tax deductibility and create a tax credit for the donation of used computer equipment to schools in this country.

It enjoys strong bipartisan support, both in the freestanding bill as well as this amendment. What this will help us to do is address the problem of the digital divide by providing more hardware and software and other computer services and equipment to the public schools of this country to help improve the ratio of computers to students in our public school system.

We look forward to continuing to work on this digital divide challenge, but this legislation will move us in the right direction. I encourage my colleagues to support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Who seeks recognition?

Mr. REID. We yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2825. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 2, as follows:

Rollcall Vote No. 18 Leg.]

YEAS—96

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

NAYS—2

Conrad Nickles

NOT VOTING—2

Bond McCain

The amendment (No. 2825) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there are now 2 minutes equally divided prior to the vote on the Bingaman amendment.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be limited to 10 minutes in length.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I support Senator BINGAMAN's amendment