

extend this right to American parents and their adopted children. Everyone in the Senate supports adoption, and we should make sure the law expresses that support.

Many Senators on both sides of the aisle worked hard to see this bill become law, and I would like in particular to commend Senator LANDRIEU for her efforts. She and her staff were dedicated to this bill and were instrumental in its passage.

I hope that we are able today to move forward on a number of pieces of legislation. First, I hope we can pass the bill that extends the program under which religious workers can obtain visas to enter the U.S. Senator KENNEDY has championed this legislation, it has significant bipartisan support, and there is no reason not to act quickly to pass it. We should also pass the bill benefiting Syrian Jews that Senator SCHUMER has advocated, as well as legislation benefiting the Hmong people, which the late Congressman Bruce Vento did so much to promote. Although many of the larger immigration issues that should have been addressed in this Congress—from reforming expedited removal to restoring due process rights for legal permanent residents—may regrettably remain unresolved, we can at least take these more limited steps and demonstrate some commitment to immigrants and a sound immigration policy.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to explain my vote against the Boxer amendment No. 4308 to the FY01 VA/HUD Appropriations bill.

This amendment addressed two issues which are very important to Michiganders: clean air and clean water. Unfortunately, whatever the intentions of the author, the amendment would have done more harm than good. I particular, I was troubled by the attempt to strike language which will prevent the EPA from designating Michigan counties as being in nonattainment, or not meeting clear air requirements.

On May 14, 1999, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, in *American Trucking Association v USEPA*, ruled that the 8-hour ozone standard as proposed by EPA be remanded to EPA for further consideration. The 8-hour standard was therefore suspended. The court specifically noted that USEPA retains the power to designate areas as nonattainment under a revised national Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), however, there must be a legal standard in place before USEPA makes such designations. Since the 8-hour standard was remanded, it is not legal NAAQS.

In response, EPA announced its intention to reinstate applicability of the one-hour ozone standard. However, in determining which communities were in nonattainment under the one-hour standard, EPA intended to make air

quality designations based on the designations of these areas at the time the 1-hour standard was originally revoked, rather than rely on the most recent air quality data.

Under this proposed action, six Michigan counties would have been in nonattainment even though all six have monitoring data measuring attainment—Midland, Bay, Saginaw, Genesee, Muskegon, and Allegan. These are counties that were previously designated as nonattainment of the 1-hour standard. Although they were previously designated as nonattainment, only Muskegon was “classified” under the classification scheme of the Clean Air Act. Thus, only Muskegon County was subject to the major ozone control programs, but all nonattainment counties are subject to tougher permit and offset requirements.

Even though these counties are now in attainment, tougher permit standards would have been required for new major stationary sources just because these counties were previously designated as nonattainment for the 1-hour standard. Additionally, offset requirements for major stationary sources would have applied. In addition, these six counties would have had to resume doing transportation and general conformity for projects receiving federal funds. Under the revocation, conformity was not a requirement. Conformity was a continuing requirement for redesignated areas.

Shortly after the announcement, I made clear to USEPA that in my opinion there was no rational basis for intentionally jeopardizing economic development and the construction of much-needed road projects in areas that are meeting attainment levels for the 1-hour ozone standard. Further, I noted that EPA should not disregard air quality improvements made in several areas of the state and should base any non-attainment designations under this rulemaking on the most current air quality monitoring data available.

To date, I have not been satisfied with the response from USEPA and for that reason, I supported the language included in the FY01 VA/HUD Appropriations bill. This language will prevent EPA from designating any Michigan county as nonattainment for the next 12 months or until the courts have settled the pending matter, whichever happens first. In fact, I understand that EPA actually agreed to this language in a compromise with the house.

It was unfortunate that the Boxer amendment also sought to permit EPA to move forward on a new arsenic standard. This is an issue which I believe merits independent consideration. I understand the arsenic standard has not been updated in almost 60 years. However, I am concerned that the push to lower the standard to 5ppb from the current 50ppb may be too extreme. While large water systems may be able to comply with such a strict requirement, I am not at all certain that smaller systems which serve a great

percentage of the Michigan population would be able to comply with that standard. They would therefore be subject to penalties for their inability to comply with yet another unfunded mandate. In any event, I look forward to the opportunity to consider this issue on its own merit, and urge the EPA to base whatever standard it eventually proposes on sound science and even then only after extensive peer review.

NATIONAL HISPANIC MONTH

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I join many of my colleagues in commemorating National Hispanic Heritage Month. The nationwide celebration of Hispanic heritage was initiated by the 90th Congress in 1968, which designated National Hispanic Heritage Week. Twenty years later, the 100th Congress transformed this week into a month, designating the period of September 15 to October 15 as a time to recognize the Hispanic influence in and contributions to our culture and society.

For over 400 years, Hispanic Americans have played a fundamental role in the history of the United States. The first European expedition in recorded history to land in what is today the continental United States was led by the former Spanish Governor of the Island of Puerto Rico, Juan Ponce de Leon.

America's diverse and vibrant Hispanic population has made an enormous contributions to the building and strengthening of our nation, its culture, and its economic prowess. As we cross the threshold of a new century, we look to the outstanding contributions of Hispanic Americans for inspiration and leadership. My hometown, Detroit, was made great in the twentieth century in part by immigrants who went there to find work and provide for their families. This great dream lives on today as thousands of immigrants come to Detroit every year from countries like Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Cuba. In fact, Southwest Detroit, known as Mexicantown by its residents, is the fastest growing part of Detroit. Hispanics who have come to Detroit have opened businesses, bought homes and turned a once neglected urban neighborhood into a thriving community that has become one of the centers of the city.

One woman, Maria Elena Rodriguez, has had a lot to do with this turnaround. Her hard work as president of the Mexicantown Community Development Corporation has helped to provide the spark needed to reinvigorate a community. Ms. Rodriguez is currently in the process of helping to build a welcome center for people coming into Detroit across the Ambassador Bridge, an effort she hopes will fulfil her mission to bring more business and visitors to her neighborhood.

Hispanic contributions to Michigan businesses abound. The Kellogg Company, founded and headquartered in Battle Creek, Michigan, has millions of customers in over 160 countries, and is the world's leading producer of cereal. Its CEO is Carlos Gutierrez, who started with Kellogg's as a sales representative in Mexico City, and after 25 years with the company is now in charge of this global giant.

Education has long played a prominent role in Hispanic culture. The first free integrated public school was established in St. Augustine, Florida in September of 1787. On March 31, 2000 Rebecca Arenas was awarded the "Caesar Chavez Civil Rights Achievement Award" for her work to better the lives of Hispanics in general, and migrant workers in particular. Rebecca's parents brought her to Michigan at the age of 5 from Crystal City, Texas. Her parents were migrant workers who chose to stay in Michigan because they believed it would allow Rebecca to have a better education. Because of the actions of her parents, Rebecca developed a commitment to education that would last a lifetime. Rebecca passed this commitment to education onto her children, all seven of whom have received a post-secondary education. In addition to the "Caesar Chavez" award, Rebecca has received recognition on numerous other occasions because of her work in education, health care, and voter registration.

For these and countless others reasons, it is a pleasure for me to stand today with my Senate colleagues in commemorating National Hispanic Heritage Month.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter dated Oct. 11, 2000, to Secretary Richardson from myself be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the letter was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, October 11, 2000.

Hon. BILL RICHARDSON,
Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I am writing to request that the Department provide the Committee the following information with respect to the proposed exchange of 30 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve:

1. A list of the bidders for the SPR oil.
2. For each bidder, the date on which their bid was submitted, the amount of SPR oil they bid for and the bid they made.
3. For each winning bidder, the amount and type of SPR oil they were awarded and the terms of the award.
4. For each winning bidder, the assurance they provided that they will be able to return oil to the SPR as is required.
5. Why DOE did not have any financial qualification for bidders.
6. For each losing bidder, the reasons why their bid was not accepted.
7. A list of all persons who the Department contacted to inform them of the proposed exchange, and the means by which such person was contacted.

8. Provisions in the contracts that require heating oil to be refined from the SPR oil.

9. Provisions in the contracts that require heating oil refined from the SPR oil to be delivered to the Northeast market.

10. Provisions in the contracts that prohibit the export of the SPR oil or petroleum product refined from the SPR oil, including export by exchange.

Please provide the Committee with this information as soon as possible, no later than 12:00 p.m., Monday, October 16, 2000. If you or your staff have any questions you may contact Mr. Brian Malnak (224-4970).

Sincerely,

FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
Chairman.

OUR PART FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, over the last few years, high profile school shootings across this country have left teachers, parents, and students scared and confused. In response, the FBI has conducted an exhaustive study on school shootings in an effort to assess, intervene and prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future. The report, entitled, "School Shooter: A Threat Assessment Perspective," recommends specific steps for school officials to take to prevent youth violence. The report notes that in the vast majority of cases, kids do not turn violent overnight. Instead, those who become violent tend to exhibit increasingly disturbing patterns of behavior as their fascination with violence builds. By learning to recognize these behavioral signs, teachers and students can be prepared to investigate and intervene before potentially violent situations get out of control.

The FBI report goes on to suggest specific measures schools can take to head off potential shootings. The report recommends that students and faculty should be trained to recognize certain warning signs that students may be considering committing violent acts; groups of faculty and students should be established to encourage students not to keep silent when they recognize potential threats; programs should be developed to teach parents to recognize behavior that may indicate that their children are prone to acts of violence. In addition to these preventive measures, the FBI recommends that schools establish specially trained Threat Assessment Teams to handle evaluating and responding to threats if and when they arise.

The FBI warns teachers, parents, and students that they should not ignore any threat of violence. We in Congress should follow the same advice. Yet, while parents and school officials are pursuing more vigorous responses to potential violence, we in Congress seem to be less responsive to such danger. Over the last few years, many of us in Congress have continually tried to close the loopholes in our laws that permit school children to gain access to firearms. Unfortunately, our efforts have been stymied by the leadership in the House of Representatives. In a few weeks, this session of Congress will come to an end. Before we adjourn, let's do our part and reduce the threat

of gun violence in our schools and communities.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

THE COUNTERTERRORISM ACT OF 2000

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am delighted to join my good friend Senator JON KYL in sponsoring S. 3205, the Counterterrorism Act of 2000. This bill, introduced last night, seeks to improve our ability to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks.

In light of the events yesterday in the Middle East, there can be no doubt of the need for this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to act quickly to pass this important bill.

All the evidence now indicates that the cowardly and reprehensible attack on the U.S. Navy destroyer U.S.S. *Cole* yesterday in Aden was a terrorist suicide attack. It appears that the bombers had infiltrated the port's harbor operations and carefully planned the operation. It is fortunate that the explosion did not set off Tomahawk cruise missiles or other ordnance on board, causing even more devastation.

If found to be a terrorist incident, the attack on the U.S.S. *Cole* would be the worst against the U.S. military since the bombing of an Air Force barracks in Saudi Arabia killed 19 airmen in 1996. It would also be the worst attack on a Navy ship since an Iraqi missile struck an American guided-missile frigate in 1987, killing 37 sailors.

My heart goes out to the families of the American sailors who were killed or injured or who are still missing. Their tragedy underlines the constant danger faced by our armed forces around the world and the need for this country to remain vigilant in protecting them from terrorist and other attacks.

The attack on the U.S.S. *Cole* was no isolated incident. In fact, just today, a bomb was hurled at the British embassy in Yemen, causing a massive explosion.

I believe that we need to take strong action to combat terrorism. There is no question that terrorist attacks will continue and that they will become more deadly. Terrorists today often act out of a visceral hatred of the U.S. or the West and seek to wreak maximum destruction and kill as many people as possible.

At the same time, I believe that our counterterrorism policy must be conducted in a way that remains consistent with our democratic values and our commitment to an open, free society.

To help avert attacks such as those on the U.S.S. *Cole*, Senator KYL and I have introduced S. 3205. This legislation implements major recommendations from a bipartisan, blue-ribbon commission on terrorism.