

Much will depend on how the relationship between the United States and China evolves in the years ahead. If the relationship becomes antagonistic, Seoul will find itself in an extremely delicate position vis-a-vis Beijing, a situation that it would clearly like to avoid at all costs.

There appears to be little awareness in Washington, however, how its China policy, should it be mishandled, could have possibly adverse consequences in terms of alliance relations with Seoul, and, in all likelihood, with Tokyo as well. The cautious stance taken by Seoul with respect to the acquisition of even a lower-tier Theater Missile Defense capability is but one example of Seoul's desire not to unnecessarily create friction with Beijing.

So, Mr. President, this is a serious business.

I believe this body has not yet taken the time to consider the implications of deploying a limited national missile defense for our broader strategic interests in East Asia. I intend to raise these issues and others in the days ahead. If we are not to squander our material wealth and our world leadership, we must consider carefully whether a missile defense will maximize our overall national security.

CHILDREN'S PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Mr. REED. Mr President, I rise to join my colleagues Senators FRIST, KENNEDY, JEFFORDS and others in support of our bill the "Children's Public Health Act of 2000". This critical legislation seeks to improve the lives of children in this nation by enhancing access to certain health care services and providing additional resources for pediatric health research. Children are our most precious resource, and we must do all we can to enable our children to reach their full potential both physically and intellectually. The Children's Public Health Act takes an important step toward achieving this goal by creating an environment where children are able to grow and develop unhindered by the burden of disease.

Overall, tremendous improvements have been made in the quality of children's health over the past century. For instance, deadly and debilitating diseases that were once prevalent during childhood have been largely eradicated thanks to advancements in vaccines.

Yet, even with these remarkable advancements, new problems have arisen. In particular, over the past decade, we have seen dramatic increases in the number of preventable childhood injuries, as well as a rise in diagnoses of asthma, autism, and diseases often attributed to obesity, such as diabetes, high cholesterol and hypertension in young children. This legislation sets forth creative approaches for dealing with these increasingly prevalent pediatric conditions.

Generally, the programs and initiatives authorized under the Children's Public Health Act can be broken down into four specific categories: (1) injury prevention; (2) maternal and infant health; (3) pediatric health promotion

and; (4) pediatric research. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a couple of the provisions included under the pediatric health promotion section of the bill dealing with lead poisoning prevention and childhood obesity.

First, the Children's Public Health Act contains a section based on legislation I introduced last year along with Senator TORRICELLI, entitled the Child Lead SAFE Act. This comprehensive bill seeks to address an entirely preventable problem that continues to plague far too many children in this nation—lead poisoning. While tremendous strides have been made over the last 20 years in reducing lead exposure among the population, it is estimated that nearly one million preschoolers nationwide still have excessive levels of lead in their blood—making lead poisoning the leading childhood environmental disease. Childhood lead poisoning has a profound health and educational impact on children.

Children with high blood lead levels can suffer from brain damage, behavior and learning problems, slowed growth, and hearing problems, among other maladies. Moreover, children with a history of lead poisoning frequently require special education to compensate for intellectual deficits and behavioral problems that are caused by their exposure to lead. Research shows that children with elevated blood-lead levels are seven times more likely to drop out of high school and six times more likely to have reading disabilities. By failing to eradicate lead poisoning, we are preventing our children from achieving their fullest potential and are also imposing significant health and special education costs on taxpayers.

Timely childhood lead screening and appropriate follow-up care for children most at-risk of lead exposure is critical to mitigating the long-term health and developmental effects of lead. Regrettably, our current system is not adequately protecting our children from this hazard. Despite longstanding federal requirements for lead screening for children enrolled in Medicaid and other federally funded health care program, a January 1999 GAO report found that two-thirds of these children have never been screened and, consequently, remain untreated, even though low-income children are at particular risk for lead exposure. As a result, there may be thousands of children with lead poisoning who continue to go undiagnosed.

The Children's Public Health Act will begin to address this problem by enhancing the existing lead grant program through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and authorizing new grant programs to conduct outreach and education for families at risk of lead poisoning, implement community-based interventions to mitigate lead hazards, establish uniform guidelines for reporting and tracking of blood lead screening from laboratories and local health departments and ensure continuous quality measurement

and improvement plans for communities dedicated to lead poisoning prevention. The legislation also provides resources for health care provider education and training on current lead screening practices and would require the Health Resources and Services Administration to submit an annual report to Congress on the percentage of children in the health centers programs who are screened for lead poisoning.

A second element of this bill that I believe will have a major impact on improving and preserving the health of children in this nation is a provision related to childhood obesity. Over the past fifteen years, childhood obesity rates have doubled. It is estimated that almost five million, or 11% of youth 6–19 years of age are seriously overweight. Contributing to this trend has been the rise in fast food consumption, coupled with an increasingly sedentary lifestyle where time engaged in physical activity has been replaced by hours playing computer games and watching television. Another reason for the lack of physical activity in children is the reduction of in daily participation in high school physical education classes, which has declined from 42 percent in 1991 to 27 percent in 1997. Children simply do not have the time or opportunity to engage in healthy physical activities.

As a result, younger and younger Americans are showing the signs of obesity-related diseases, such as heart disease and diabetes. Research shows that 60 percent of overweight 5–10 year old children already have at least one risk factor for heart disease, such as hypertension. If our society continues on this trend, obesity will soon rival smoking as a leading cause of preventable death. Clearly, action needs to be taken to curb this potentially deadly epidemic.

The Children's Public Health Act acknowledges and attempts to reverse this trend through a multi-pronged approach. First, the bill would provide states and local communities with the resources they need to develop and implement creative approaches to promoting good nutrition habits and enhancing the levels of physical activity among children. The bill authorizes a new competitive grant program through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, whereby states would develop comprehensive, inter-agency, school- and community-based approaches to better physical and nutritional health in children and adolescents. These programs would be evaluated and information about effective intervention models and obesity prevention strategies would be broadly disseminated.

The legislation also calls for greater applied research in order to improve our understanding of the many factors that contribute to obesity. Research will also focus on the study of the prevalence and costs of childhood obesity and its effects into adulthood. Another

aspect of the bill is the development of a nationwide public education campaign informing families of the health risks associated with chronic obesity that provides information on incorporating good eating and regular physical activity into daily living. Lastly, the bill provides resources for health care provider education and training on evaluation and treatment practices for obese children or children at risk of becoming obese.

Overall, this bill has many substantial provisions that will go a long way in improving the health and well-being of our children. This legislation not only expands the base of pediatric medical research currently ongoing, it also includes important enhancements in maternal and prenatal health as well as several other initiatives that will greatly enhance access to services to children with chronic and debilitating diseases.

I am pleased to join my colleagues today on introducing this important legislation, and I look forward to working to pass the bill through the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the full Senate this year.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 74, The Paycheck Fairness Act. Over 30 years ago, President John Kennedy signed the Equal Pay Act into law. At that time women were making only 61 cents for every dollar that was earned by a man. Since that time, we have made significant strides to ensure equality in the workplace, however, the disparity in wages between men and women still exists.

Today, as a nation, women earn 74 cents for every dollar that a man earns. In Montana, the difference is even more significant, women are earning only 69 cents for every dollar that is earned by a man. This translates into more than \$5,000 a year. This is unacceptable. We must have pay equity.

In our state, and the country as a whole, women work a variety of jobs, from minimum wage jobs, to women who run their own businesses. The work that women do is not adequately reflected in the wages that they earn.

In Montana we are faced with a unique situation—we are ranked almost last in per capita income. The economic boom that has created tremendous wealth on Wall Street hasn't echoed on Main Street, Montana. It is necessary to invest our resources to maintain our quality of life while creating good jobs and boosting our working families standard of living. If women were paid equitably, Montana families would greatly benefit. Family incomes would rise and, poverty rates would fall.

Mr. President, pay equity is not the entire solution to the economic development challenge. It is part of a package, we must also invest in and protect our small businesses. After all, small business is the backbone of our econ-

omy. In order to improve jobs and wages in Montana and in the nation, we must maintain our educational systems. When we make additional investments in education and job training, we can attract new businesses to our state, increase our wages, and prepare our children for the jobs of tomorrow.

If we are willing to do these things, economic growth will improve the quality of life for all men and women of Montana.

CONSERVATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on September 3, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act. The Land and Water Conservation Fund, or LWCF, was created by Congress to use revenues from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas development—a non-renewable resource—to invest in America's renewable resources by creating parks and open spaces, protecting wilderness, wetlands and refuges, preserving habitat, and enhancing recreational opportunities.

The LWCF has been a remarkable conservation success story. In its 35-year history, LWCF has supported the acquisition of nearly 7 million acres of parkland and the development of more than 37,000 park and recreation projects. In my state of Rhode Island alone, LWCF has invested over \$32 million in nearly 400 state and local parks projects, including \$1.7 million for development of Roger Williams Park in Providence, \$1.1 million for Scarborough State Beach in Narragansett, and \$536,000 for rehabilitation of the famous Cliff Walk in Newport. Because State and local governments provide at least half of initial project costs and assume all operation and maintenance costs in perpetuity, each Federal dollar leverages several dollars in non-Federal contributions.

But despite the LWCF's success, funding for the program has fallen well below its authorized level of \$900 million per year, and the stateside grant program was completely zeroed out in 1995, even as offshore oil and gas revenues increased and the need for parks and open space continued to rise dramatically.

Last year, President Clinton proposed an historic Lands Legacy budget initiative to fully fund the LWCF at its authorized level. Although appropriators did not fully fund the Lands Legacy budget request, Members of Congress are clearly getting the message Americans are sending to Washington about the need for major conservation legislation to promote open space and recreation.

On May 11, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 2000, by a vote of 315-102. The "CARA" bill, which would automatically set aside revenues from offshore oil and gas leases to fully fund the Federal and State LWCF grant programs for the first time in decades, was the product of an extraordinary bipartisan compromise between

the House Resources Committee chairman, DON YOUNG, and the ranking member, GEORGE MILLER. The CARA bill would provide nearly \$3 billion annually until 2015 to support conservation efforts across the country.

All eyes are now on the Senate, Mr. President. Across the country, Americans in cities, suburbs, and rural areas have joined State Governors, city and town planners, wildlife program managers, hunters and fishermen, and environmental organizations to call on the Senate to act on this historic legislation.

Several bills have been introduced in the Senate:

S. 2123, introduced by Senators LANDRIEU and MURKOWSKI, is identical to H.R. 701 as reported by the House Resources Committee;

S. 2567, introduced by Senator BOXER, is identical to H.R. 701 as passed by the full House;

S. 2181, introduced by Senator BINGAMAN, would support many of the same programs as the House bill but would distribute a greater percentage of LWCF stateside funds evenly among the states, benefitting states with small populations, such as Rhode Island. In addition, it would support a number of marine research and conservation programs;

And there are several more bills, all of which seek to fully fund the LWCF and preserve our natural heritage for future generations.

Mr. President, none of these bills is perfect; there is always room for improvement. Members of the Senate may disagree, for example, on how much funding should go to coastal assistance, or federal land acquisition in western states, or endangered species protection. I, for one, believe it is critically important that we provide \$125 million or more each year for the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery, UPARR, program, as well as full annual funding of \$150 million for the Historic Preservation Fund. We should also avoid creating incentives for new offshore oil and gas drilling.

Whatever our differences over the details of this legislation, Mr. President, the important thing is that we pass a bill this year. Any one of these conservation bills would represent an unprecedented and desperately needed investment in our natural resources and our cultural and historic heritage.

But we have to act soon. There are, at best, 33 legislative days left in the 106th Congress. Many members of this body, myself included, are disappointed that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has postponed several markups of the CARA bill. But we understand that Chairman MURKOWSKI and ranking member BINGAMAN are working to satisfy a wide array of regional interests on the Committee, and we continue to hope that an agreement can be reached in time for the Committee to approve the bill next week. We would urge the Majority