

program. I am a cosponsor of the Senate version of this legislation, which will achieve the important goal of making our visa waiver program permanent. We have had a visa waiver pilot project for more than a decade, and it has been a tremendous success in allowing residents of some of our most important allies to travel to the United States for up to 90 days without obtaining a visa, and in allowing American citizens to travel to those countries without visas. Countries must meet a number of requirements to participate in the program, including having extraordinarily low rates of visa refusals. Of course, the visa waiver does not affect the need for international travelers to carry valid passports.

The visa waiver pilot program expired on April 30. The House passed legislation to make the program permanent before that deadline. But the Senate failed to meet this deadline, and the Administration was forced to extend it administratively. Since then, the Senate has missed deadline after deadline, and has had to rely on the grace of the Administration for this program—which is relied upon by thousands of American travelers every year—to continue.

Every Democratic Senator has cleared this bill. But the majority has refused to clear it, even five months after it passed the House and the statutory authorization for this program expired. Earlier in the year, some members had substantive concerns about the bill. Those have been rectified. I am unaware of any remaining substantive objections to this legislation, and it is now well past time to pass it. Passing it will not require any floor debate or roll call vote. It simply requires Senators to life their holds.

This is a bill that benefits American travelers from every State and the tourism industry in every State. It is not a Democratic bill or a Republican bill. It is not a regional bill. It is simply a good, common-sense bill that deserves the Senate's support. There has been too much stalling on this bill already—we should act today.

RENAMING OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT HARRY S TRUMAN

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, tomorrow will be a special day for the State of Missouri. Tomorrow, President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will hold a ceremony to officially rename the U.S. State Department Headquarters as The Harry S Truman Federal Building.

I am pleased to have played a role in the renaming of the State Department in honor of one of Missouri's most famous sons—President Truman. Last spring, I introduced a bill, S. 2416, to designate the headquarters for the Department of State, as the "Harry S. Truman Federal Building". The House's companion legislation, H.R.

3639, sponsored by Missouri Congressmen IKE SKELTON and ROY BLUNT, passed the Senate on June 8th and was signed by the President on June 20, 2000. Secretary of State Albright was supportive of this effort from the beginning, and I thank her. In addition, I would like to thank the Senators who cosponsored this bill, Senators BOND, BOXER, BYRD, DEWINE, HAGEL, MOYNIHAN, ROBERTS, and WARNER.

Born in Lamar, Missouri, Harry S Truman was a farmer, a national guardsman, a World War I veteran, a local postmaster, a road overseer, and a small business owner before turning to politics. Through these traditional experiences, he gained the courage, honesty, and dedication to freedom required of a great leader. Joining the Senate in 1935, Truman fought against government waste and saved the U.S. Government \$15 billion as Chairman of the Senate War Investigating committee. Ten years later, Harry S Truman became Franklin D. Roosevelt's Vice President. Four short months later, Truman assumed the presidency after Roosevelt's untimely death, and remarked to reporters: "I felt like the moon, the stars, and all the planets had fallen on me." Although Truman might have felt unprepared, he rose to the challenge with typical Missourian resolve and changed the face of history. President Truman went on to become one of the most influential presidents of the modern era. His leadership and character, especially in the area of foreign policy, have earned him well-deserved praise and respect throughout the world. The life, character, and freedom-loving values of this great Missourian are honored by countless millions.

Mr. President, naming the State Department Headquarters building after President Truman is a befitting tribute to his life and his legacy. This is truly a proud moment for the Truman family, the people of Missouri, and all Americans.

COMBATING CHILDHOOD CANCER AND DUCHENNE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, the month of September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Contrary to public perception, cancer is not just an adult disease. Cancer is the second leading cause of childhood deaths, second only to accidents. Cancer strikes 46 children, or two classrooms of children, every school day. In 1975, only 35 percent of children with cancer survived more than five years. Thanks to modern medicine, 70 percent of children diagnosed with cancer survive. Thirty percent, however, do not.

Childhood cancer has a unique set of characteristics and problems which researchers are still trying to find answers to. While most adult cancers result from lifestyle factors, such as smoking, diet, occupational, and other exposure to cancer-causing agents, the causes of most childhood cancers, are

not yet known. While adult cancers are primarily those of the lung, colon, breast, prostate and pancreas, childhood cancers are mostly those of the white blood cells (leukemias), brain, bone, the lymphatic system and tumors of the muscles, kidneys and nervous system. Childhood cancers further differ from adult cancers in that they often have spread to other parts of the body by the time they are diagnosed.

Our goal must be to increase funding for research, early detection and treatment, and prevention of childhood cancer. The member institutions of the Children's Oncology Group, C.O.G., provide treatment for up to 90 percent of all children with cancer in North America. The Children's Oncology Group is supported, in part, by federal funds from the U.S. National Cancer Institute and by private funds raised by the National Childhood Cancer Foundation. The National Cancer Institute is slated to receive \$3.8 billion in Fiscal Year 2001 for cancer research. Yet childhood cancer is one of many focuses of the NCI's research, and it certainly is not among the top funding priorities.

I have worked with my fellow colleagues on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee to raise awareness about the need for greater focus on childhood cancer, and I am delighted that the Senate will today pass legislation to address a number of pressing children's health issues. In particular, I want to thank Senator FRIST, the author of this legislation, for working with me to include language directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study environmental and other risk factors for childhood cancers and to carry out projects to improve treatment outcomes among children with cancer—such projects shall include expansion of data collection and population surveillance efforts to include childhood cancers nationally, the development of a uniform reporting system nationwide for reporting the diagnosis of childhood cancers, and support for the National Limb Loss Information Center to address the primary and secondary needs of children with cancer to prevent or minimize the disabling nature of these cancers. By authorizing the Secretary to carry out these functions, we will hopefully get the answers we need to ensure that all children live a healthy, cancer-free life.

Another devastating disease which affects almost exclusively male children, is Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, DMD. At this time, there is no cure for DMD. Little boys with DMD are most often not diagnosed before the age of two or three years. Most boys with DMD walk by themselves later than average, and then in an unusual manner. They may frequently fall, have difficulty rising from the ground, or difficulty going up steps. Calf muscles typically look over developed or excessively large, while other muscles are poorly developed. Use of a wheelchair

may be occasional at age 9, but total dependence is normally established upon reaching the teen years. Most boys affected survive into their twenties, with relatively few surviving beyond 30 years of age.

I have heard from the parents and grandparents of a little boy in Arkansas who has DMD. His name is Austin and his family is desperately hoping for a cure so they don't have to watch their son and grandson lose his ability to walk. While we are far from finding a cure for DMD, I am hopeful that language that Senator FRIST has graciously worked with me to include in the children's health bill will help Austin and the thousands of other young boys suffering from DMD. Specifically, the Act authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and increase coordination of the activities by the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on muscular dystrophies, including DMD.

In conclusion, we are about to pass incredibly important legislation to address a myriad of children's health issues, including childhood cancer and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Efforts to improve the quality and length of life for millions of children are valuable beyond measure, and I encourage all of my colleagues to work together with me to raise awareness about these devastating diseases and the need to find treatments and cures for the children they affect.

THE INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION ACT OF 2000

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, it may only be September, but it sure feels like Christmas. For seven years, adoption advocates in the United States and throughout the world have waited for the moment that came late yesterday. In fact, it marked the second time this week that history has been made in these chambers. On Tuesday, this body voted to extend permanent normal trade relations to China and yesterday, we voted to ratify the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of International Adoption. In doing so, we have joined the international community in, for the first time, recognizing that the "child for the full, harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family." For the hundreds of thousands of children growing up on the streets and in institutions throughout the world, yesterday's vote marked the hope of a better tomorrow.

I would like to begin my remarks by thanking Chairman HELMS for his extraordinary leadership in passing this historic legislation. There is no doubt in my mind that we would not be celebrating this important moment were it not for him. In the two years since we stood together on this floor and introduced this legislation, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that each of the bill's provisions were aimed at pro-

tecting adopted children and their families. I would also like to thank Senator BIDEN, Senator BROWNBACK, Senator KENNEDY, Senator ABRAHAM, Representative GILMAN, Representative GEJDENSON, Representative SMITH and Representative CAMP for their work in moving this bill forward.

I would also like to commend the adoption community at large. In my opinion, this effort is a shining example of what can be accomplished if people are willing to compromise for the greater good. I have said it before and I believe it rings true here, adoption brings people, whether they are Republican, Democrat, conservative, liberal, American, Russian or Chinese, together. United by the belief that all children deserve to grow in the love of a permanent family. Adoption breaks down barriers and helps build families.

Last year international adoption helped 15,744 children to realize their dream of having a family of their own. Not a day goes by when I do not receive a letter or a picture from one of these families telling me what incredible joy adoption has brought to their lives. Not long ago, I attended the naturalization ceremony for about 100 of these families. I distinctly remember looking into the crowd, at the tiny faces of these little ambassadors from Moldova, India, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Korea, Romania, and thinking that there is no better example of the new era of globalization. With inventions like the Internet, geographic barriers will no longer stand in the way of children finding families. Today, it is possible for a couple from a small town like New Iberia, Louisiana to be connected with a waiting child in Irkutsk, Russia. There is no such thing as an unwanted child, just unfound families. We share a collective responsibility to find a home for every child in the world and with yesterday's vote, we acknowledged that we are willing to share in that responsibility.

As the largest receiving country, we have the opportunity to use this legislation and the system it creates to construct an international framework designed to protect the children and families involved in the adoption process. It is time for us to take action to eliminate some of the fraud, abuse and greed that can corrupt the adoption process. Joined by their commitment to protecting the rights of the child, Hague countries can now enjoy the comfort of knowing that each and every adoption will be performed in accordance with the established standards. Adoptive parents can rest easier knowing that there is somewhere they can turn with questions and concerns.

As an adoption advocate and adoptive mother, it has been a very exciting week. In addition to passing this treaty, the House just passed the H.R. 2883, the Adopted Orphans Citizenship Act. This bill grants automatic citizenship for children who are adopted. Unlike a child born to a United States citizen, adopted children are not conferred

automatic citizenship by virtue of their adoption. Instead, they must go through a long, complex and costly naturalization process. This is not only unnecessary its unfair. Adopted children should have the same rights as birth children and laws which unfairly discriminate between the two need to be changed. I urge my colleagues to act quickly to pass this legislation.

Yes, Mr. President, it has been a very good week for children in need of homes. Yesterday, President Clinton awarded the second installment of the adoption incentive payments to states who had increased their number of adoptions out of foster care. 46,000 children in foster care found homes through adoption last year. That is a 65 percent increase since 1996.

Although I am excited by the progress we have made, I am still driven by the vision of the children in institutions abroad and the knowledge that over 500,000 children in this country are caught in the foster care drift. We have accomplished a lot, but much remains to be done.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, September 20, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,660,515,052,511.42, five trillion, six hundred sixty billion, five hundred fifteen million, fifty-two thousand, five hundred eleven dollars and forty-two cents.

One year ago, September 20, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,630,759,000,000, five trillion, six hundred thirty billion, seven hundred fifty-nine million.

Five years ago, September 20, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,967,473,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred sixty-seven billion, four hundred seventy-three million.

Ten years ago, September 20, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,214,168,000,000, three trillion, two hundred fourteen billion, one hundred sixty-eight million.

Fifteen years ago, September 20, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,102,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred two million, which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,837,413,052,511.42, three trillion, eight hundred thirty-seven billion, four hundred thirteen million, fifty-two thousand, five hundred eleven dollars and forty-two cents, during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am honored to serve as one of this year's congressional co-chairs for National Bible Week, sponsored by the National Bible Association. This observance occurs during the week of November 19–26, 2000, the week during which Thanksgiving Day occurs. This is appropriate