

Making it more difficult to file bankruptcy and regain economic stability afterwards.

Pitting women and children who are trying to collect child support against powerful commercial companies trying to collect credit card and other debts.

Punishing honest low income bankruptcy filers while providing cover for individuals convicted of violating FACE (clinic violence protections).

We cannot support a bill that uses VAWA to provide cover for legislation that also hurts women. S. 2787 can be passed under Unanimous Consent today. Please just do it.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA BLAU REUSS,
Vice President, Government Relations.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER,
NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR
WOMEN & FAMILIES,

September 17, 1999.

Re: S. 625, The "Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1999"

DEAR SENATOR: The undersigned women's and children's organizations write to urge you to oppose S. 625, the "Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1999."

Hundreds of thousands of women and their children are affected by the bankruptcy system each year as debtors and creditors. Indeed, women are the fastest growing group in bankruptcy. In 1999, over half a million women are expected to file for bankruptcy by themselves—more than men filing by themselves or married couples. About 200,000 of these women filers will be trying to collect child support or alimony. Another 200,000 women owed child support or alimony by men who file for bankruptcy will become bankruptcy creditors.

S. 625 puts both groups of economically vulnerable women and children at greater risk. By increasing the rights of many creditors, including credit card companies, finance companies, auto lenders and others, the bill would set up a competition for scarce resources between parents and children owed child support and commercial creditors both during and after bankruptcy. And single parents facing financial crises—often caused by divorce, nonpayment of support, loss of a job, uninsured medical expenses, or domestic violence—would find it harder to regain their economic stability through the bankruptcy process. The bill would make it harder for these parents to meet the filing requirements; harder, if they got there, to save their homes, cars, and essential household items; and harder to meet their children's needs after bankruptcy because many more debts would survive.

Contrary to the claims of some, the domestic support provisions included in the bill would not solve these problems. The provisions only relate to the collection of support during bankruptcy from a bankruptcy filer; they do nothing to alleviate the additional hardships the bill would create for the hundreds of thousands of women forced into bankruptcy themselves. And even for women who are owed support by men who file for bankruptcy, the provisions fail to ensure that support payments will come first, ahead of the increased claims of the commercial creditors. Some improvement were made in the domestic support provisions in the Judiciary Committee. However, even the revised provisions fail to solve the problems created by the rest of the bill, which gives many other creditors greater claims—both during and after bankruptcy—than they have under current law. The bill does not ensure that, in this intensified competition for the debtor's limited resources, parents and children owed support will prevail over the sophisticated collection departments of these powerful interests.

This Bankruptcy Reform Act will reduce the ability of parents to pay their most important debt—their debt to their children. It is for these reasons that we strongly oppose S. 625 and urge you to oppose it as well.

Very truly yours,

National Women's Law Center.
National Partnership for Women & Families.

ACES, Association for Children for Enforcement of Support, Inc.

American Association of University Women.

American Medical Women's Association.
Business and Professional Women/USA.
Center for Law and Social Policy.
Center for the Advancement of Public Policy.

Center for the Child Care Workforce.
Church Women United.
Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW).
Equal Rights Advocates.
Feminist Majority.
Hadassah.

International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation ("IWIRC").

National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW).

National Black Women's Health Project.
National Center for Youth Law.

National Council of Jewish Women.

National Council of Negro Women.

National Organization for Women.

National Women's Conference.

Northwest Women's Law Center.

NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Wider Opportunities for Women.

The Women Activist Fund.

Women Employed.

Women Work!

Women's Institute for Freedom of Press.

Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.

YWCA of the U.S.A.

CONTINUING CLIMATE OF FEAR IN BELARUS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, as co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I take this opportunity to update my colleagues on the situation in Belarus, as I have done on previous occasions.

The Belarusian parliamentary elections are scheduled for October 15, and unfortunately, they do not meet the basic commitments outlined by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) concerning free and democratic elections. Moreover, many observers have concluded that the Belarusian government has not made real progress in fulfilling four criteria for international observation of the elections: respect for human rights and an end to the climate of fear; opposition access to the state media; a democratic electoral code; and the granting of real power to the parliament that will be chosen in these elections.

Instead, the Helsinki Commission has observed that the Lukashenka regime launched a campaign of intensified harassment in recent days directed against members of the opposition. We have received reports that just last week, Anatoly Lebedka, leader of the United Civic Party, whom many of my colleagues met when he visited the Senate last year, was roughed up by police after attending an observance marking the first anniversary of the

disappearance of a leading member of the democratic opposition Viktor Gonchar and his associate, Anatoly Krasovsky. And just a few days ago, we were informed that Belarusian Popular Front leader Vintsuk Viachorka's request for air time on Belarusian television to explain why the opposition is boycotting the parliamentary elections was met with a hateful, disparaging diatribe on the main newscast "Panorama."

This is only the tip of the iceberg—in addition, the Helsinki Commission is receiving reports of detentions, fines and instances of beatings of opposition activists who are promoting a boycott of the elections by distributing leaflets or other literature or holding meetings with voters. In recent weeks, we have also been informed of the refusal to register many opposition candidates on dubious grounds; the seizure of over 100,000 copies of the independent trade union newspaper "Rabochy"; forceful disruptions of public meetings with representatives of the opposition; an apparent burglary of the headquarters of the Social Democratic Party; a ban of the First Festival of Independent Press in Vitebsk, and recent "reminder letters" by the State Committee on Press for independent newspapers to re-register.

Mr. President, Belarusian opposition parties supporting the boycott have received permission to stage "Freedom March III" this Sunday, October 1. At a number of past demonstrations, police have detained, harassed and beaten participants. Those in Congress who are following developments in Belarus are hopeful that this demonstration will take place peacefully, that authorities do not limit the rights of Belarusian citizens to freedom of association and assembly, and that the Government of Belarus will refrain from acts of repression against the opposition and others who openly advocate for a boycott of these elections.

Mr. President, the Helsinki Commission continue to monitor closely the events surrounding these elections and we will keep the full Senate apprized of developments in the ongoing struggle for democracy in Belarus.

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is not even one month into the school year and yet school is canceled for the week at Carter C. Woodson Middle School in New Orleans, Louisiana. On Tuesday afternoon, a 13-year-old boy, who had been expelled from school for fighting, allegedly slipped another 13-year-old a .38-caliber revolver. The expelled teen was seen passing the handgun through the school fence to the other 13-year-old, who allegedly used the gun to shoot a 15-year-old schoolmate. According to witnesses, the 15-year-old then managed to get the gun from his attacker and return gunfire.

As a result of this school day skirmish, two teenagers have been hospitalized in critical condition and another teen-ager has been booked on charges of illegally carrying a gun and being a principal to attempted first-degree murder. In addition, the 600 student middle school is in a "cooling off period," meaning classes are canceled for the rest of the week.

It is deeply disturbing that teenagers have such easy access to handguns. The laws in this country make it illegal for a juvenile to possess a handgun or a person to sell, deliver, or otherwise transfer a handgun to a juvenile. Yet, with so many loopholes in our firearm distribution laws, it is easy for prohibited users, such as young people, to find illegal access to thousands of guns.

Congress can close those loopholes and act to prevent tragedies like the one in New Orleans. With only one week left until the Senate's target adjournment, the time is now. We must pass sensible gun laws and reduce the threat of gun violence in our schools and communities.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

September 28, 1999:

Stephanie Borjon, 25, Fort Worth, TX; Fransisco Cabera, 17, Oklahoma City, OK; Everett Lee, 27, Detroit, MI; Dennis Mattei, 19, Bridgeport, CT; Ronald L. Pearson, 29, Memphis, TN; Sohan S. Rahil, 65, Bedford Heights, OH; Justin Thomas, 27, Baltimore, MD; Christopher M. Williams, 26, Memphis, TN; Douglas Younger, 43, Houston, TX; and Unidentified Male, Detroit, MI.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

EULOGY TO MAUREEN MANSFIELD

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, Mike Mansfield's eulogy to his wife, Maureen, this past Tuesday at her funeral was simply beauty. It was vintage Mansfield—and any other comment would mar its eloquence. On behalf of the distinguished Senator from Alaska, Mr. STEVENS, and myself, I ask unanimous consent that it be included in the RECORD.

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

EULOGY FOR MAUREEN MANSFIELD DELIVERED BY SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD, SEPTEMBER 26, 2000

1929

We met—She was 24 and I was 26. She was a high school teacher; I was a miner in the Copper mines of Butte.

She was a college graduate; I had not finished the 8th grade.

She urged me to achieve a better education. I followed her advice and with her help, in every way, we succeeded.

She took me out of the mines and brought me to the surface.

1932

We were married in Missoula during the great depression.

She gave up her teaching job.

She cashed in on her insurance.

She brought what little savings she had and, she did it all for me.

1940

Maureen was very politically oriented—I was not.

She urged me to run for Congress.

We campaigned together.

We finished next to last.

The day after the election she put us on the campaign trail for the next election and we won.

1942

Maureen was largely responsible for our election to the House of Representatives.

Almost every summer she drove herself and our daughter, Anne, to Missoula—5 days and 3,000 miles.

Why? To campaign for us and in

1952

She got us elected to the U.S. Senate.

1977

We decided—after talking it over, to retire.

We did not owe anything to anybody—except the people of Montana—nor did anyone owe anything to us.

1977

President Carter asked me if we would be interested in becoming the U.S. Ambassador to Japan. Maureen thought we should accept and we did and when President Reagan called and asked us to stay, we did for almost 12 years.

1988

Around Xmas Maureen almost literally forced me to go to the Naval Hospital at Yokosuka, which sent me to the Army Hospital at Honolulu, which sent me directly to Walter Reed Army Hospital where I had heart bypass and prostate operations. Again it was Maureen.

1989

We came home.

1998

Illness began to take its toll on Maureen. On September 13, 2000, less than 2 weeks ago, we observed—silently—our 68th Wedding Anniversary.

Maureen and I owe so much to so many that I cannot name them all but my family owes special thanks to Dr. William Gilliland, and his associates, who down through the last decade did so much to alleviate Maureen's pain and suffering at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital—one of the truly great medical centers in our country.

We also owe special thanks to Gloria Zapata, Ana Zorilla and Mathilde Kelly Boyes and Ramona the "round the clockers" who took such loving care of Maureen for the last two years on a 24 hour day, seven day week basis.

MAUREEN MANSFIELD

She sat in the shadow—I stood in the limelight.

She gave all of herself to me.

I failed in recognition of that fact until too late—because of my obstinacy, self centeredness and the like.

She sacrificed much almost always in my favor—I sacrificed nothing.

She literally remade me in her own mold, her own outlook, her own honest beliefs. What she was, I became. Without her—I would have been little or nothing. With her—she gave everything of herself. No sacrifice was too little to ignore nor too big to overcome.

She was responsible for my life, my education, my teaching career, our elections to the House and Senate and our selection to the Embassy to Japan.

She gave of herself that I could thrive, I could learn, I could love, I could be secure, I could be understanding.

She gave of her time to my time so that together we could achieve our goals.

I will not say goodbye to Maureen, my love, but only "so long" because I hope the Good Lord will make it possible that we will meet at another place in another time and we will then be together again forever.

SENATE QUARTERLY MAIL COSTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in accordance with section 318 of Public Law 101-520 as amended by Public Law 103-283, I am submitting the frank mail allocations made to each Senator from the appropriation for official mail expenses and a summary tabulation of Senate mass mail costs for the third quarter of FY2000 to be printed in the RECORD. The official mail allocations are for franked mail expenses only, and therefore are unrelated to the mass mail expenditure totals. The third quarter of FY2000 covers the period of April 1, 2000 through June 30, 2000. The official mail allocations are available for franked mail costs, as stipulated in Public Law 106-57, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 2000.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the frank mail allocations in the RECORD.

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

Senators	FY2000 official mail allocation	Senate quarterly mass mail volumes and costs for the quarter ending 06/30/00			
		Total pieces	Pieces per capita	Total cost	Cost per capita
Abraham	\$114,766	0	0	\$0.00	0
Akaka	35,277	0	0	0.00	0
Allard	65,146	0	0	0.00	0
Ashcroft	79,102	0	0	0.00	0
Baucus	34,375	0	0	0.00	0
Bayh	80,377	0	0	0.00	0
Bennett	42,413	0	0	0.00	0
Biden	32,277	0	0	0.00	0
Bingaman	42,547	0	0	0.00	0
Bond	79,102	0	0	0.00	0
Boxer	305,476	0	0	0.00	0
Breaux	66,941	0	0	0.00	0
Brownback	50,118	0	0	0.00	0
Bryan	43,209	0	0	0.00	0
Bunning	63,969	0	0	0.00	0
Burns	34,375	0	0	0.00	0
Byrd	43,239	0	0	0.00	0
Campbell	65,146	0	0	0.00	0
Chafee, Lincoln	34,703	0	0	0.00	0
Cleland	97,682	0	0	0.00	0
Cochran	51,320	0	0	0.00	0
Collins	38,329	0	0	0.00	0
Conrad	31,320	0	0	0.00	0
Coverdell	97,682	0	0	0.00	0
Craig	36,491	3,100	0.00308	612.63	\$0.00061
Crapo	36,491	4,270	0.00424	3,351.95	0.00333