

and for the investments he has made in creating the children and family court system. Let me take a minute on that particular subject.

We hope every child in this country and the world will stay in the family to which they were born. I think it is what God intended. It is what we hope for and work for every day. But there are facts, tragedies, and circumstances where children cannot stay with their biological parents. There are some tragedies that have occurred in this District and in places around the Nation. We are hoping to build a bipartisan consensus in this country, and I might say in the world, on the simple notion that all children deserve a family to call their own. Children should not be raised in hospitals, left to grow up alone on the streets, to comfort themselves when they are sick, to put themselves in bed, and get themselves up in the morning at ages at which you could not believe they could be capable of doing that.

It is incumbent upon our Government, working with the private sector and nonprofit organizations, to make sure every child has a family. We want them to stay with their biological families if at all possible; but if not, to not leave them alone or in a situation that is not permanent, and move them to adoption.

So investing in a new court system, starting up a family court, is a great step toward that goal of helping children to be connected to at least one loving, responsible adult.

I am proud to say that adoptions in the District are up, but we still have too many children in foster care.

I can't give this speech nearly as well as the mayor himself, who came out of foster care at the age of 4. He was basically declared to be mentally unfit at that age. His emotional capacity was questioned. His adoptive mother, Ms. Williams, gave a beautiful testimony. She said she looked at this child and could see something very special in his eyes and decided to take him into her family. She raised him, and the rest is history. He went on to a fine university and is now mayor of this great city.

I hope people can see hope in the mayor of this city, in him and his adoptive family, and what can happen when the system works well—to connect the child who needed a mother and father, a mother and father who wanted a child, and to see how this community and Nation will benefit when that system works.

This bill is committed to laying a foundation to help this system work for the District and hopefully serve as a model for the Nation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Yes, of course.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been listening to the Senator's opening remarks, and especially to what she just stated, and her humility. She can speak with great authority about adoption. The Senator and her husband,

Frank, have two beautiful children, Mary Shannon and Connor. I remember going to her office, and Mary Shannon was there on the floor, having recently come into her life and all of ours.

I am sure that Mayor Williams can give a very dramatic speech. Senator LANDRIEU speaks from experience, and she speaks volumes. As chairman of the subcommittee, she is focusing on that which needed to be focused for a long time in the District of Columbia. I think that says a lot.

I want everyone within the sound of her voice to understand that she speaks about something which is not read in a book. They adopted two beautiful children. They are very happy and very fortunate children.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator. I appreciate those remarks. Frank and I are blessed. As adoptive parents, we can't believe that we are so blessed to have an opportunity to take children into our home. People think you are doing them a great favor, but actually they do a great favor by just being the beautiful children that they are.

As the Senator said, I am an advocate because I have seen the benefit of not only adoptive children but as an adoptive family. I have seen the benefits of birth families and birth mothers who have made such a selfless decision. Given all of the desires expressed, and the needs of the parties, the least our government can do is to invest some money and some time to put in structure and accountability so these matches can be made. Our whole society benefits.

I am proud that this is in this bill.

I hope this bill will be the beginning of new investments in the District public school system, particularly giving more choices for parents in the District for charter schools, for magnet schools, and for more public school choice, by helping to return ownership of the schools to the communities and to the parents, by breaking down some of the systematic barriers that fight against excellence and greatness, which keeps us thinking that mediocrity is what we strive for when that is not the case. We strive for excellence. We strive for greatness in our schools. We have to keep pushing forward, thinking in different ways and helping us stabilize the middle class as it grows in the District, both black and white and people of all races. We cannot stabilize the middle class without an excellent school system. I want to work with members of local government to help do that.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to offer for the RECORD the Budget Committee's official scoring for S. 1543, the District of Columbia Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

The Senate bill provides \$408 million in discretionary budget authority, which will result in new outlays in 2002 of \$368 million. When outlays from prior-year budget authority are taken into account, discretionary outlays for

the Senate bill total \$416 million in 2002. The Senate bill is at its section 302(b) allocation for both budget authority and outlays. The bill does not provide any emergency-designated funding. In addition, the bill approves the District government's budget for 2002, including granting it the authority to spend \$7.154 billion of local funds.

The Congress is far behind in passing the 13 regular appropriations bills for 2002. Much of this delay is the result of the extraordinary events of this year. I am hopeful that the bipartisan agreement reached between the President and congressional appropriations on the 2002 budget earlier this month will result in a quick completion of the 2002 appropriations. It is particularly important that the Senate act expeditiously to pass this bill, which not only provides a limited amount of federal funding to the District, but also, through the enactment of its budget, allows the city to obligate and spend its own local revenues.

I ask unanimous consent that a table displaying the budget committee scoring of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1543, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002, SPENDING COMPARISONS—SENATE-REPORTED BILL
(In millions of dollars)

	General purpose	Mandatory	Total
Senate-reported bill:			
Budget Authority	408	0	408
Outlays	416	0	416
Senate 302(b) allocation:¹			
Budget Authority	408	0	408
Outlays	416	0	416
House-passed bill:			
Budget Authority	398	0	398
Outlays	408	0	408
President's request:			
Budget Authority	342	0	342
Outlays	362	0	362
SENATE-REPORTED BILL COMPARED TO:			
Senate 302(b) allocation:¹			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
House-passed bill:			
Budget Authority	10	0	10
Outlays	8	0	8
President's request:			
Budget Authority	66	0	66
Outlays	54	0	54

¹ For enforcement purposes, the budget committee compares the Senate-reported bill to the Senate 302(b) allocation.

Notes.—Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Totals adjusted for consistency with scorekeeping conventions.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the President. I express my appreciation for the good work of the Senator from Louisiana on the issues that she described. I appreciate her commitment to education and to the improvement of education.

THE NOMINATION OF KARON OWEN BOWDRE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, in just a few minutes we will be voting on a Federal judge nominee for the Federal District Court of the Northern District

of Alabama, Karon Owen Bowdre. Senator SHELBY and I are pleased that President Bush chose to nominate her. Her nomination moved through the committee and will be up for a vote in just a few minutes.

Karon Bowdre is a first-rate judicial nominee. Karon Bowdre has been a student, a legal practitioner, and a professor of law. She graduated cum laude from the Cumberland School of Law, where she served as associate editor of the Cumberland Law Review. Cumberland may be the largest school in Alabama. It is an excellent law school.

After graduating from law school Mrs. Bowdre served as a law clerk for the Honorable J. Foy Guin, Jr. in the Federal District of Northern Alabama, the court to which she has been nominated. She is very familiar with the Federal district court, having clerked and practiced there.

Judge Guin, a wonderful Federal judge, has taken senior status. He was number one in his class at the University of Alabama School of Law. His father was an excellent practitioner. I had the honor of practicing in his law firm immediately after his going on the bench in Birmingham. Mrs. Bowdre has a good background. She clerked for the Federal judge in the very district that she will be serving. Prior to becoming a full-time professor, Mrs. Bowdre spent several years as associate and partner, practicing law at the well-respected law firm of Rives & Peterson in Birmingham, our State's largest city. Rives & Peterson is an outstanding firm and her serving as partner in that firm is proof of her legal ability.

During a substantial part of that practice, she litigated a number of cases in the Federal court system. For the last 11 years, Mrs. Bowdre has been teaching students about the rule of law. As a professor and director of the Legal Research and Writing Program at the Cumberland School of Law, she has authored numerous articles on insurance law and legal ethics. She has established a reputation as a professor who insists on quality work from students, and high ideals and high ethics.

In addition, she has been called to testify as a legal expert on insurance issues and has been involved in lecturing at Continuing Legal Education seminars.

Mrs. Bowdre knows how to deal with lawyers, with witnesses, and with parties. These experiences have no doubt prepared her for service on the Federal bench.

Her reputation as a lawyer and as a scholar has earned her broad support in the community. I would like to quote a letter submitted by perhaps one of the most successful plaintiff lawyers in Alabama, Jere Beasley. Even though Mrs. Bowdre, as an insurance defense attorney, was generally arguing the opposite position of Mr. Beasley, he had this to say on her behalf.

I have known Karon for a number of years and believe that she will be an outstanding

U.S. District Judge. She will have wide acceptance from lawyers . . . regardless of whether they represent plaintiffs or defendants. While my practice is one that represents plaintiffs only, I am convinced that Karon will be fair and competent to all concerned and that is all that any lawyer should ask of a judge. She is highly qualified and, in my opinion, will do an outstanding job.

Her integrity, experience, and commitment to the rule of law are outstanding.

I commend Chairman LEAHY for placing her on the Senate Judiciary Committee agenda last month and for moving the nomination. I recommend her to my colleagues in the Senate without reservation.

I served for almost 15 years—12 years as U.S. Attorney and 2½ as Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Federal court. Those 15 years of practice full-time in Federal court gave me a basis to appreciate the value of a good Federal judge. When you go to court every day and you are there before a Federal judge who has a lifetime appointment, they can afford to be irritable, if they so choose, and there is nothing you can do about it. This knowledge makes you realize the importance of good Federal judges.

I am confident that Mrs. Bowdre will be the kind of judge that will serve the litigants and lawyers well that appear before her. Day after day and hour after hour she will give her best service to the country, and she will give her honest and best rulings in case after case that comes before her. You can't ask for more than that.

She has integrity, outstanding legal ability, and broad experience. She will be an outstanding Federal judge. I am honored to have submitted her name. I am confident she will be confirmed in a few minutes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). The Senator from North Dakota.

AVIATION SECURITY

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I congratulate the Senator from Louisiana and the ranking Senator from Ohio for their work on the District of Columbia Appropriations Act. I am pleased to support it, pleased as a member of the Appropriations Committee to support it.

I intend to support the judge my colleague from Alabama just described. That judge has a commendable record of public service. I am pleased to support the President's nomination.

I rise to comment about something that is not in the appropriations bill. Then I will speak on an amendment I intend to offer. First, on the issue of aviation security, I believe we are or probably have appointed conferees from the Commerce Committee on the issue of writing an aviation security bill in conference between the House and Senate. I will be one of those conferees.

It is a shame we have had to wait this long. We passed a bill dealing with

aviation security 100-to-0 in the Senate. It wasn't a great controversy, just judging by the margin of the vote—100-to-0—people here believing that we needed to improve security of the country's airlines.

We need to give people a feeling of security that when they board an airplane their fellow passengers have been properly screened, that we have made certain there is not a risk that we are going to have additional hijackings. The airport security bill was very important. We passed it 100-to-0. The House of Representatives dragged their feet and waited and waited and didn't act.

Finally, they acted. They passed a piece of legislation that is deficient. Their concern was that the Senate bill would have "federalized" workers at airports who are screening baggage and other related activities dealing with security.

Let me describe a couple of things about security. Yesterday I was in Chicago. I came back by commercial air from Chicago to Washington, DC. As I picked up the newspaper in the Chicago airport, I read about the events of the previous day, Sunday, at O'Hare Airport. Most people have now heard of that circumstance on Sunday, but let me describe it for a moment. It is not an isolated instance.

A fellow named Subash Bahadar Gurung, age 27, was arrested Sunday in Chicago on charges that the night before he tried to bring knives, chemical spray, and a stun gun onto an airplane.

Here is the frightening part of all this: This fellow, who according to news reports is in this country illegally, got through the initial screening with the X-ray machine and reached the gate to board his airplane. At the screening they discovered he had two knives. They confiscated the knives, then let him go to the gate.

At the gate, he went through an expanded screening and they opened everything he had and discovered he had seven additional knives, a can of mace, and a stun gun. I don't know if the guy is a terrorist, but I do know he is stupid. Nine knives, mace, and a stun gun, showing up at the airport?

There is something else that is wrong: He got all the way to the gate with seven of his knives, a stun gun, and a can of mace.

The Secretary of Transportation had a lot to say about that yesterday. But the point is this: We don't have a security system in place that gives people confidence. Just ask yourself: If someone can get through O'Hare Airport, one of our largest airports, can get through the screening process with seven knives and a stun gun and a can of mace, what kind of confidence does that give people who are traveling?

Let me give you a couple of other suggested incidents that ought to give us cause for concern. In Westchester County Airport in New York last Friday, a woman was arrested on charges of criminal possession of a weapon