

succeeding generations to bring order and security to their lives. They should keep this money. It is not for us. If this is the last and only gift a mother or father had to give to their children or husband, or wife to their spouse, that is as it should be. It is not for us.

Current law excludes disability benefits from income if a U.S. employee is injured in a terrorist attack outside the United States. This legislation will also expand this to include those injured in a terrorist attack in the United States.

Every Member of the Senate should feel proud to be part of this legislation. We have offered assistance to the States of Virginia and New York and New Jersey because of the terrorist attacks. We have offered relief to the airline industry to save them from bankruptcy. There is debate now on what should be done for the insurance industry. These things may all be right and proper. They are not complete.

No financial arrangement, no change of the law could possibly be complete unless we address the question of families themselves. Senator CORZINE and I made a solemn pledge to these families that we would not rest until this is done. I can assure you that promise will be kept. There is little else this Government can offer these people. This much, Madam President, we can and should do.

THANKING SENATOR ALLEN

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Senator ALLEN for his generosity and his collegiality.

As one of the displaced Hart people, he very graciously offered facilities in his own office to welcome my staff. It was a bridge across the Potomac, hopefully a little bit less expensive than the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Now we are working together on the capital region security plan. I express in this time this is what bipartisan collegiality is all about.

COVE POINT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I want to bring the full attention of the Senate to a national security issue about which I am deeply alarmed. Plans are well underway to reactivate and expand a liquefied natural gas, LNG, terminal at Cove Point in Maryland.

What would this mean? It would mean that foreign ships, transporting flammable liquid natural gas, would come up the Chesapeake Bay and dock 3½ miles down from the nuclear powerplant at Calvert Cliffs.

Can you believe that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has given preliminary approval to reopen the Cove Point LNG facility and will let this type of tanker steam up the bay and park next to a nuclear powerplant? And guess when they did it? They did it on October 11, the 1-month anniversary of the terrorist attack on America.

The President of the United States was warning us against more attacks. The Attorney General had us on high alert. And FERC is signing little pieces of paper saying "you all come from Algeria."

I cannot believe it. Calvert Cliffs, 3½ miles away, needs to be protected. The International Atomic Energy Agency and U.S. officials have warned that nuclear powerplants are at risk.

The Homeland Security Director, Tom Ridge, has called for increased security at nuclear powerplants.

We cannot fly over nuclear powerplants. Why should we be able to dock next to them with an LNG tanker?

From where do these LNG tankers come? One of the main sources is Algeria. Algeria is on every terrorist watch list. It is the home of the Armed Islamic Group, or IGA, a terrorist group with international reach. Islamic radicals from Algeria are key players in bin Laden's terrorist network. But that is OK; an Algerian tanker can just come up and park in Maryland next to a nuclear powerplant. I am concerned that these terrorists could attack ships carrying fuels, posing a real risk.

The mayor of Boston is also worried about it. That is why he tried to keep an LNG tanker out of Boston Harbor.

If LNG tankers are allowed in the Chesapeake Bay near Calvert Cliffs, a nightmare scenario could become a reality.

As America leads the war on terrorism, we cannot do business as usual and issue permits without analysis through a national security prism.

I acknowledge we do need more natural gas in our country. I acknowledge we need to look at energy policy. But while we are looking at the long-range solutions, we should not make short-range decisions that put us further at risk.

So what am I doing about it?

I am demanding that the Chairman of FERC review their permitting process and review their Commission's decision on Cove Point in the interest of national security and national safety. I don't know what they were thinking about on October 11, but they are going to have to rethink this whole process.

I am bringing this matter to the attention of Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge and FBI Director Robert Mueller, urging them to fully consider potential risks from terrorism and to get a hold on the permitting processes that are going on in this country.

I am turning to U.S. Coast Guard Admiral Loy to ensure that the Coast Guard rigorously reviews the Cove Point proposal, working with the Office on Homeland Security and the FBI to fully consider potential risks from terrorism.

The Coast Guard has authority over foreign LNG tankers that would come into the Chesapeake Bay. I have already discussed this with our local commander, Captain Peoples, who is now taking a look at this issue.

I am asking the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to look into the potential

threat to the safety of Calvert Cliffs by this proposed reopening.

Finally, I am asking the Governor of Maryland, Parris Glendening, to use his local regulatory authority to review this proposal.

You can be sure that I will follow up with all these officials. I am very serious about the threat of terrorism. And I am sure some of my colleagues will share my concern.

I want to make sure that LNG shipments into Cove Point and other American terminals are thoroughly considered as a national security issue, not just an energy issue, and that they are part of our threat assessment.

I am not confident that those who gave preliminary approval to reopen Cove Point gave this matter the rigorous review it deserves.

I want every single agency with authority over LNG plants and shipping to take a look at the risk of terrorist attacks.

Madam President, let me conclude by saying this. We are all warriors in the war on terrorism. Whether we are a bureaucrat or a technocrat or whether we are a soldier in Afghanistan, we all need to stand sentry. Thousands of people died at the two World Trade Center Towers because of sloppiness and incompetence at our airports. We cannot let the same sloppiness go on at our seaports.

I will stand sentry, working for the United States of America and protecting the Chesapeake Bay. I wanted to bring this to my colleagues' attention. I say to my colleagues, where they are giving permits, you want to make sure that it is not quite as permissible as people might think.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

ELECTION REFORM

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Louisiana, the distinguished Senator from Texas, and the distinguished Senator from Illinois for allowing me to speak for 7 minutes on an unrelated subject matter.

It was 1 year ago on this very day that we had a national election. It was on November 7 of last year when 105 million of our fellow citizens went to the polls to elect a President of the United States, Congress, and a variety of governorships and State legislative offices. As we all recall, although it is hard to imagine it has been a year, it was a very controversial election, one that went on for a month before a final decision was made by the Supreme Court.

According to the CalTech-MIT report, as many as 4 million to 6 million people actually showed up to vote that day, but for a variety of reasons in States across the country, were told they could not vote or they voted and their vote was not counted. That is according to CalTech and MIT.

According to that same report, these votes were lost due to a variety of reasons that have existed for a long time. They did not just happen in one place or in one election: Faulty equipment, confusing ballots, registration mixups, flawed polling place operations, absentee ballot problems, and the list goes on.

It was not about one State. We all focused on Florida, but the fact remains, in the other 49 States there were problems to varying degrees. Again, these problems were not limited to one State. In fact, the General Accounting Office found that 57 percent of voting jurisdictions nationwide experienced major problems conducting the November 7, 2000, elections.

These problems were not limited to one election. In fact, many of these are systemic problems with our election systems that have existed for years. For example, over 11 million Americans who are blind or have a hand mobility disability have never been able to cast a secret ballot. Not a single ballot in America is in braille.

In fact, according to the General Accounting Office, of the 120,000 polling places in America, 50,000 of them are physically inaccessible to the disabled. Despite the fact we passed the Americans with Disabilities Act, there still is a staggering number of our voting places that are not accessible.

We could spend a lot of time talking about what happened a year ago, but I want to take the few minutes available to me to strike a more positive note. Senator BOND of Missouri, Senator MCCONNELL of Kentucky, myself, and Senator SCHUMER of New York are all working to put together a bill to bring to the Senate in the coming weeks. We are working on a compromise proposal that will allow us to try to fix the problems that existed in the year 2000 elections.

This is not about the past, but about the future of our democracy. As Thomas Paine once said, the right to vote is the right upon which all other rights depend. Certainly we ought to be able to get this right in the 21st century.

To reach that goal, those of us who are interested in the issue have been working together to come up with a bipartisan proposal that will meet the concerns and objectives of all of us in this Chamber and, hopefully, in the other body as well.

On August 2, the Rules Committee, which I chair, approved a bill which does three major things:

It creates a temporary commission to study election reform issues and issue "best practice" recommendations.

It creates a grant program to provide States and localities with Federal funds to acquire updated voting systems and technology, improve voter registration systems, and educate voters and poll workers.

It establishes three minimum Federal requirements for Federal elections and authorizes Federal funding for these requirements.

These three requirements provide for: Federal standards for voting machines and technology, provisional voting, and distribution of sample ballots and voting instructions.

There are a lot of ideas for improving our system that can be incorporated. It is not about ideology, it is about what reforms need to be made to enhance the voting systems of our country.

Our staffs are meeting. Senator BOND is deeply interested in the fraud issue. He has said what I think is the best line about the election process. Senator BOND says: Voting ought to be easy, and cheating ought to be hard. He is exactly right, and his efforts to try to deal with the fraud issues are ones I welcome.

I am hopeful we can weave reforms which address these issues into a bill to which we all will be willing to lend our names. I intend to continue to work with those Members who are interested in this subject.

We do not have the answer yet, but I did not want this day to pass when I know there will be a lot of discussion about what happened a year ago. Obviously, the events of September 11 threw the entire agenda of the Congress off its predictable path. We are scrambling to get back to some of these issues that need to be addressed. For Americans who wonder if anything has been done over the last year, the answer is yes. These are not simple matters. There are strongly held views. We have longstanding traditions about how voting is to be conducted in this country.

Americans, as they demonstrated yesterday in New Jersey, Connecticut, Virginia, and in places all over the country where elections were held, still believe very deeply in the right to vote and have their votes counted. I am hopeful that in the coming days we will be able to announce a compromise proposal.

Again, I thank my colleague from Missouri, Senator BOND, my colleague from Kentucky, Senator MCCONNELL, my colleague from New York, Senator SCHUMER, and many others interested in this subject matter. Our hope is we will soon be able to bring a compromise election reform bill before the Senate of the United States.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS BILL

COMPASSION CAPITAL FUND

Mr. REED. Madam President, I rise to inquire about the Compassion Capital Fund, which is funded in this bill at \$89 million. As my colleagues know, this fund was requested by the President as part of his Faith-Based Initiative. This is a significant amount of money and I want to note that the Senate has not yet considered legislation authorizing various aspects of the President's Faith-Based Initiative, including provisions which might alter longstanding rules on government funding of religious organizations.

Therefore, I would like to clarify several points with the chairman and ranking member of the subcommittee about the uses of these funds. It is my understanding that this fund is supposed to provide grants to organizations for the purpose of advising charitable organizations on expanding their operations effectively and providing guidance on how to emulate model social service practices. Am I correct on that point?

Mr. HARKIN. The Senator is correct. The Compassion Capital Fund will provide grants to public/private partnerships to help charitable organizations develop "best practices" as a social service agency. The goal of grantees of the Compassion Capital Fund will be to improve the effectiveness of social programs and community initiatives around the Nation. The Senate has not yet debated the President's Faith Based Initiative, and the Senator is correct that this fund is only for the development of model best practices.

Mr. SPECTER. I appreciate the chairman and Senator from Rhode Island for clarifying these points. It is important to note that this appropriations bill is not changing any of the rules or standards for government funding of religious organizations and we have funded the two programs in the President's Faith-Based Initiative that we believe are authorized.

Mr. REED. I thank the chairman and the ranking member of the subcommittee for clarifying these points, and I look forward to working to further clarify this matter during the conference committee process.

CHANGES TO THE 2002 APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE ALLOCATION AND BUDGETARY AGGREGATES

Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, section 314 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended, requires the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to adjust the budgetary aggregates and the allocation for the Appropriations Committee by the amount of appropriations designated as emergency spending pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. The conference report to H.R. 2620, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 2002, provides \$1.5 billion in designated emergency funding in 2002 for FEMA disaster relief. Because that budget authority is not estimated to result in any new outlays in 2002, the adjustment made herein is for budget authority only.

Pursuant to section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act, I hereby revise the 2002 allocation provided to the Senate Appropriations Committee in the concurrent budget resolution in the following amounts.

Pursuant to section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, I hereby revise the 2002 budget aggregates included in