

Mr. STEVENS. I have the same understanding. OMB and Justice have decided that available funds can be used from the current balances. I am glad this issue has been worked out.

Mr. KERRY. I very much appreciate the comments of Senators LOTT, STEVENS, and GREGG concerning the Police Corps program, which provides scholarships on a competitive basis to students who earn their bachelor's degrees, complete approved Police Corps training, and then serve for four years on patrol with law enforcement agencies in areas of great need. The Police Corps gives States funding to provide residential police training and to provide local and State agencies that hire Police Corps officers \$10,000 a year for each of an officer's first 4 years of service. The fiscal year 2002 Senate Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary Appropriations bill, under the leadership of Chairman HOLLINGS and Ranking Member GREGG, included \$30 million for the Police Corps program. However, I was very disappointed that this amount was reduced to \$14.435 million in the conference report, which included legislative language that the Police Corps program has sufficient unobligated balances available to allow the program to maintain its activities in fiscal year 2002 at the prior year level.

I am very concerned that the Office of Justice Programs is not planning to provide appropriate funding for the Police Corps program in fiscal year 2002. It is my understanding that the Office of Justice Programs' plan for the Police Corps program could limit the ability of local law enforcement agencies to address violent crime by decreasing the number of officers with advanced education and training who serve on community patrol in high-crime areas. This could negatively affect the Police Corps program in my home State of Massachusetts, which is currently updating its training curriculum to provide the rigorous physical and moral police training that will help Police Corps recruits work effectively in high-crime areas within Massachusetts. As our nation remains on high alert due to recent terrorist attacks, the Police Corps program will play a crucial role in training future policemen and policewomen to stop terrorist activities before they hurt innocent Americans.

It is my understanding that there are unobligated funds available to provide the Police Corps program with the funding necessary to increase the number of recruits above the modest demonstration level of approximately 25 trainees per state per year and to assist in resolving the current backlog of funding requests for the program.

I believe that the Department of Justice should provide such funds as are necessary to maintain the current level of activity in Police Corps operations and to begin to resolve the current backlog of funding requests for the program. I look forward to working with

Chairman HOLLINGS, Ranking Member GREGG and others to assure that the Police Corps program is treated fairly by the Office of Justice Programs this year and in future years, and to insure that this important program receives adequate funding in the future.

BIOTERRORISM

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the important achievement the Senate has made today in defending our homeland. Just over two months ago, my state of Florida was the site of the first in a series bioterrorist attacks on our Nation that culminated here in Washington, DC. While the repercussions evolving out of the anthrax attacks on our mail system pale in comparison to the enormous tragedy of September 11, the families of those who suffered tragic deaths after being exposed to anthrax laced letters and those of us who continue to be displaced on Capitol Hill understand the very real dangers associated with the elusive threat of bioterrorism.

In the wake of the anthrax attacks, we, as a Nation, began to realize that we were not fully prepared to effectively and comprehensively respond to biological threats. The attack in Boca Raton, FL elicited an array of missteps and symptoms of inadequate preparation at all levels of government. Because Floridians, and Americans, had never faced such a threat before, the necessary communication lines had not been formed and many emergency responders were not properly equipped to handle this new type of crisis. The Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001, passed by the Senate today, is an important first step at increasing our ability to respond to, and prevent, future biological attacks at the Federal, State, and local levels. It will enhance our ability to detect an attack by improving disease surveillance systems and public health laboratories. It will improve our ability to treat victims of an attack by increasing hospital capacity for disease outbreaks. It will also enhance our ability to contain an attack by expanding pharmaceutical stockpiles and accelerating the development of new treatments. Finally, this bill seeks to target future bioterrorist threats in a comprehensive manner by protecting our food sources and other potential targets.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a portion of the bill that I believe is essential to our Nation's coordinated prevention and response initiative. Like many Americans, I sought out additional information about the threat of bioterrorism after anthrax was discovered in Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Washington, DC. In the course of my research efforts, I had the opportunity to visit with some of the professors, researchers, and scientists that work for the University of South Florida Center for Biological Defense. The Center for Biological De-

fense is a joint project of the University of South Florida College of Public Health and the Florida Department of Health. The Center focuses on a full spectrum of studies and programs, ranging from research and development to outreach and educational seminars. The Center has implemented a multi-faceted approach to biological defense research that utilizes a number of universities throughout the state of Florida to implement its studies and projects. The Center for Biological Defense has laboratory programs that are dedicated to improving surveillance systems, developing early detection capabilities, rapidly identifying pathogens, and fully understanding the factors that affect the toxicity of biological agents. Moreover, the Center concentrates on efforts to enhance health care preparedness, to strengthen hospital hygiene and containment capabilities, and to coordinate vital educational and training programs for emergency management and health professionals, which has proven to be a crucial component of the response efforts to the anthrax contamination occurring over the course of the past 2 months.

While the preeminent focus of the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001 is on our government agencies and their crucial missions, a portion of this bill recognizes our Nation's universities as a critical component of the United States bioterrorism defense plan. Centers across the Nation, like Florida's Center for Biological Defense, do critical bio-defense work at the local, State, and national level everyday. In fact, it is these programs that have coordinated first responder training programs, developed products capable of identifying biological contamination on site, and developed new techniques for containing disease and preventing the spread of contagious pathogens. I am delighted that the Senate has been proactive in acknowledging the tremendous value of these programs in an effort to encourage their receipt of additional Federal grants in the future.

I am pleased that I was able to be part of the effort to draft and pass the Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001 and I am thankful to my fellow Senators for ensuring the passage of this vital bi-partisan legislation prior to the holiday recess. I look forward to passing a final version of this bill at the conclusion of the conference between the House and Senate, as I believe that implementation of this bill will not only ensure our preparedness for any future biological threats, but will also quell the concerns and fears of the American people.

MTBE

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, for the third day this week, I have come to the floor to speak about MTBE.

This is the gas additive that has become a huge concern for millions

across the Nation because of the contamination it has caused.

That is certainly true of many communities throughout New Hampshire where it has become a crisis. And the crisis will continue to escalate unless it is dealt with.

I was pleased last week when the majority leader made a commitment to me that the Senate will vote on MTBE legislation before the end of February.

Until the day of that vote arrives, I will continue to come to the floor to remind Senators of the terrible impact that MTBE is having on the Nation. And remind them why it is important that we act now.

In 1990, the Clean Air Act was amended to include a clean gasoline program. That program mandated the use of an oxygenate in our fuel—MTBE was one of two options to be used.

The program with MTBE is that when it is leaked or spilled, it moves through the ground very quickly and into the water table.

Many homes in New Hampshire and across the nation have lost use of their water supply because of MTBE contamination.

Many others have had to install expensive water treatment systems in order to drink the water or even shower.

According to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, there may be up to 40,000 private wells with some MTBE contamination. Of those, up to 8,000 may have MTBE contamination over state health standards.

So far this week, I have talked about the problems faced by families and small businesses throughout the regions of New Hampshire.

Today I want to talk about the Sojka family who have a home on Cobbetts Pond in Windham.

The water supply for the home is a deep, bedrock on-site well.

Just about two years ago, the Sojkas began noticing that the water had a strange odor and that it left a residue on their hands.

So they did a little test of their own to see if there really was anything unusual with their water. Their son Brian filled up a bowl full of tap water and let it sit overnight. They were horrified with their finding next morning. The water had a slick oily film floating on top—the same water that the family had been drinking, bathing in, and cleaning their food with.

As a result, the Sojkas had their water tested. The test revealed MTBE contamination at a level twice as high as the State standard.

They contacted the State of New Hampshire for help—by now, it had become quite common for the state to get this type of request.

The state began providing bottled water to the family. Just like the Miller family I spoke of yesterday, the Sojka's pointed out similar concern—that while bottled water is fine for drinking, it doesn't help with other

daily needs such as: bathing; washing fruits and vegetables; and cooking.

Within a few months of the initial tests at the Sojka home, the MTBE contamination levels in the well jumped up by almost 8,000 percent.

Unbelievable contamination!

Last summer, the State installed an elaborate and cumbersome water treatment system on the Sojka's property. Unlike the Millers that I spoke of yesterday, who had a system installed in their home, the system needed for the Sojka's was too large to fit in the home

The State had to build a shed separate from the house for the commercial water treatment system. The system consists of an enormous commercial air stripper and two 6 cubic foot carbon units.

Such a system costs in the neighborhood of \$20,000.

Fortunately for the family, the state is providing the system and cost of operation and maintenance to the tune of an additional \$5,000 per year.

Can you imagine having a large chuck of your back yard being occupied by a commercial water treatment system.

It is terrible that this has to happen to any family. And it is horribly wrong for federal mandate to cause such pain.

This problem isn't unique to New Hampshire—it exists in Maine, California, Nevada, Texas, New York, Rhode Island, and on and on.

We would be delinquent in our duties as United States Senators if we were to sit back and do nothing about this.

We must act soon.

I have a bill that has been reported out of committee two years in a row that will address these problems.

Mr. President, the time to act is now—it is time to help out the families who have fallen victim to a Federal mandate.

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, the far-reaching education package before us today makes significant strides toward meeting three of America's most important education goals: improved student achievement, increased accountability, and enhanced teacher quality. I am very pleased that the conference report includes two of the amendments I offered to the Senate BEST Act—my Immigrants to New Americas amendment and my amendment to establish a National Center for School and Youth Safety. I thank the distinguished managers of the Senate bill, Senator KENNEDY and Senator JEFFORDS, for their support and their willingness to assist me. I also want to express my appreciation to the staff of the Senator from Massachusetts for the courtesies and counsel they showed to me and to my staff.

Finally, I want to thank the “education team” on my own staff, led by Lynn Kimmerly, my superb deputy legislative director, and Donni Turner, my outstanding chief staff counsel, who helped not only in developing and winning support for my amendments but

in analyzing and advising me on all of the details of this landmark legislation. They have served our State and our Nation well, and our country's children will be the beneficiaries.

My Immigrants to New Americas language addresses the explosion of immigrants coming to this country over the past decade. Information from the 2000 Census shows that the impact from this wave of immigration is having a dramatic impact on schools and communities across America, including non-traditional immigrant communities in states like Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Georgia and the Carolinas. My amendment will provide resources to these communities to help ensure that these children—and their families—are being served appropriately. Specifically, it would expand the use of funds under the Emergency Immigrant Education set-aside to include activities which, one, assist culturally and linguistically diverse children achieve success in America's schools and, two, allow local educational agencies to partner with community-based organizations to provide the families of these children access to comprehensive community services.

My second amendment incorporated in this landmark legislation addresses the deeply troubling issue of violence at Columbine and Heritage High and in other schools across the country. My School Safety Enhancement Amendment, based on the best research in the field of school violence prevention, would create a National Center for School and Youth Safety tasked with the mission of providing schools with adequate resources to prevent incidents of violence. The National Center would offer emergency assistance to local communities to respond to school safety crises, including counseling for victims, assistance to law enforcement to address short-term security concerns, and advice on how to enhance school safety and prevent future incidents. It would also operate a toll-free, anonymous nationwide hotline for students to report criminal activity and other high-risk behaviors, such as substance abuse, gang or cult affiliation, depression, or other warning signs of potentially violent behavior. Finally, the National Center would compile information about the best practices in school violence prevention, intervention, and crisis management. The goal of the National Center for School and Youth Safety is to involve the entire community—parents, school officials, law enforcement officers, and local governments and agencies—to make them aware of the resources, grants and expertise available to enhance school safety and prevent school crime.

In closing, I would like to quote former British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, who once said: “Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends.” One of the most important investments this nation can make is an investment in the education of its future leaders. It is my fervent hope that