

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 chunk 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 State 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

Members of Congress, on both sides of the aisle, will see the wisdom in investing adequate dollars to carry out the worthy goals of this critically important piece of legislation—improved student achievement, increased accountability, and enhanced teacher quality. It is an investment in the future of America, and the future, after all, is in very small hands.

ON REAUTHORIZATION OF THE PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Senate recently passed legislation reauthorizing an important child welfare program known as Promoting Safe and Stable Families. Under the auspices of this Social Security Act grant program, States are able to provide services to at-risk families to prevent the need for children to enter the foster care system.

Four types of services are included in the program: family preservation; community-based family support; time-limited family reunification; and adoption promotion and support. In addition, the program provides funding for state court improvement projects. I cannot proceed without praising Iowa's court improvement project which, under the leadership of Judge Terry Huitink and Judge Stephen Clarke, has produced valuable research to streamline the court process for children waiting to be adopted. The Iowan project also provides training for judges in order to increase understanding of the needs of children in the foster care system.

The reauthorization passed by the Senate ensures that money will be available for the next five years at an annual minimum of \$305 million per year. An additional \$200 million is authorized to be spent from discretionary funds determined annually by Senate appropriators. I am also pleased the 2002 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and education appropriations legislation included \$70 million in discretionary spending for the Safe and Stable program, for a total funding level of \$375 million in fiscal year 2002. In fact, I and some of my Senate colleagues are sending a letter to President Bush tomorrow requesting that full funding of \$505 million for the program be included in the Administration's fiscal year 2003 budget.

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families program is a valuable weapon in the fight against child abuse and neglect. The Federal Government spends billions of dollars each year to provide services to children who have already been placed in the foster care system. Much less money is spent on providing services before removal from the home is necessary. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that between 1999 and 2003, money spent on removing children from their homes and placing them in foster and adoptive homes will exceed by nine times the amount of

money spent on services and prevention. Furthermore, annual spending during this period for removal and placement is expected to increase by thirty-five percent, from \$4.8 billion to \$6.5 billion, while annual spending for prevention and services is expected to increase by only nine percent, from \$0.57 billion to \$0.62 billion.

More than one hundred thirty thousand children are waiting to be adopted out of foster care in the United States, and at least 4,500 of those children live in Iowa. Each child deserves a loving family and a safe environment. Promoting Safe and Stable Families grants provide critical services to vulnerable families and children, and I am pleased the Senate fulfilled its duty and acted to reauthorize the program.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Enhanced border Security Act of 2001. We must take the long term steps to strengthen the security at our borders. I want to commend my colleagues, Senators KENNEDY and FEINSTEIN, BROWNBACK and KYL, for their tireless work to address border security issues.

The bill we will be voting on today, the Enhanced Border Security Act of 2001, was a product of the thoughtful merging of two bills. As an original co-sponsor of Senators KENNEDY and BROWNBACK's initial version of this bill, I have worked closely with the four principal sponsors to integrate the best of each of these two pieces of legislation, and have been very pleased with the outcome of this effort.

This bill addresses what I consider to be one of the most important issues in our fight against terrorism—how we can effectively secure our borders from terrorists. This bill address border security by increasing the number of border patrol and immigration personnel at the borders; improving the quality and sharing of identity information; improving the screening of foreign nations seeking to enter the U.S. on visas; and improving awareness of the comings and goings of these foreign nationals as they enter or exit our country.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I have been honored to work closely with Senators KENNEDY and FEINSTEIN to find ways to better protect our borders and provide necessary support to the men and women who work for the State Department, the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the U.S. Customs Agency.

I, along with many of my colleagues, am currently pressing for funding to triple the number of Immigration and Naturalization Service and U.S. Customs personnel on our northern border and improve border technology, the authorization for which was included in the USA Patriot Act. In the past, a severe lack of resources at our northern border has compromise the ability of border control officials to execute their duties. I am pleased that Congress made the tripling of these resources a priority for national security, and I

will continue to fight for full funding of this measure. This bill also addresses these needs by increasing INS inspectors and border patrol staffing each by 200 persons per year for the fiscal year 2002–2006. The bill also authorizes \$150 million in spending for improving technology and facilities at our borders.

The Enhanced Border Security Act of 2001 addresses several other critical issues. In hearings this session before the Immigration Subcommittee and the Technology and Terrorism Subcommittee, as well as the full Judiciary Committee, we heard repeated calls for better sharing of law enforcement and intelligence information as it relates to admitting aliens into the United States. The bill addresses this problem by mandating INS and Department of State access to relevant FBI information within one year. I am pleased that the authors of the bill have included provisions to protect the privacy and security of this information, and require limitations on the use and repeated dissemination of the information.

Two of the most important provisions of this legislation address international cooperation in enhancing border security. Protecting U.S. borders requires the assistance and cooperation of our closest allies. Indeed, we share an interest in protecting our respective borders. Citizens of several countries, including most European countries, Japan and Canada, can enter the U.S. without visas. And this is as it should be. But the U.S. must, with new urgency, continue to engage Canada, Mexico and other countries that may be interested in sharing law enforcement and intelligence information to protect our respective borders. We must improve information sharing, and must improve the technology to make sure information is shared with the right people and in a timely manner.

In October, we passed a major anti-terrorism bill that contained a number of provisions that will enable our law enforcement community and the intelligence community to obtain and share vital information regarding persons who are a threat to the U.S. One of the most important new tools I was pleased to have had included in USA Patriot Act is a requirement that State and Justice develop a visa technology standard to help secure our border and make certain each individual who seeks entry into our country on a visa is the person he or she claims to be and there is no known reason to keep that person out.

We must work with our allies to take advantage of this technology standard to improve interoperability on an international scale. We should do what we can to eliminate technological barriers to information-sharing regarding dangerous individuals and to address our mutual concern for border security. To this end, this bill requires the Department of State to report to Congress within six months on how best we