

State (including teachers certified or licensed through State or local alternative routes), have a baccalaureate degree, and demonstrate the general knowledge required to teach in their content areas;

“(B) testing new teachers for academic content, and to meet State certification or licensure requirements that are consistent with title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965; and

“(C) providing professional development (which may include such activities as promoting retention and mentoring) to teachers, including special education teachers and teachers of special needs children, in order to meet the goal of ensuring that all instructional staff have the subject matter knowledge, teaching knowledge, and teaching skills necessary to teach effectively in the content area or areas in which the teachers provide instruction, consistent with title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(d) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding subsection (c)(1), a local educational agency that has designed an educational program that is part of a local strategy for improving the educational achievement of all students, or that already has reduced class size in the early grades to 18 or less (or already has reduced class size to a State or local class size reduction goal that was in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2000, if that State or local educational agency goal is 20 or fewer children), may use funds provided under this section—

“(1) to make further class size reductions in kindergarten through grade 3;

“(2) to reduce class size in other grades;

“(3) to carry out activities to improve teacher quality, including professional development; and

“(4) to carry out other activities authorized under title V.

“(e) REPORTS.—

“(1) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Each State receiving funds under this section shall report to the Secretary regarding activities in the State that are assisted under this section, consistent with sections 5322 (1) and (2).

“(2) REPORT TO THE PUBLIC.—Each State and local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall publicly report to parents on its progress in reducing class size, increasing the percentage of classes in core academic areas that are taught by fully qualified teachers who are certified or licensed by the State and demonstrate competency in the content areas in which the teachers teach (as determined by the State), on the impact that hiring additional highly qualified teachers and reducing class size has had, if any, on increasing student achievement (as determined by the State) or student performance (as determined by the State) and on the impact that the locally defined program has had, if any, on increasing student achievement (as determined by the State) or student performance (as determined by the State).

“(f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Each such agency shall use funds under this section only to supplement, and not supplant, State and local funds that, in the absence of such funds, would otherwise be spent for activities under this section.

“(g) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—A local educational agency that receives funds under this section may use not more than 3 percent of such funds for local administrative expenses.

“(h) REQUEST FOR FUNDS.—Each local educational agency that desires to receive funds under this section shall include in the application submitted under section 5333 a description of—

“(1) the agency’s program to reduce class size by hiring additional highly qualified teachers; and

“(2) the agency’s proposed educational program under this section that is part of its local strategy for improving educational achievement for all students.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent during the vote on the Warner amendment regarding tax relief for teachers. The amendment was No. 383 to S. 1, the elementary and secondary education bill. I would like the RECORD to show that if present I would have voted aye.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GAO ZHAN’S BIRTHDAY

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I rise to note what should be a happy occasion but is instead a somber, worrisome, troubling and disconcerting situation.

Today is the 39th birthday of Gao Zhan, a woman of Chinese descent who on her 38th birthday lived in Northern Virginia with her husband Dong Hua Xue and her 5-year-old son Andrew.

Far from spending this 39th birthday in the day in the warm embrace of her loving family, maybe opening a present that her son Andrew made for her, or blowing out candles, she is somewhere else—enduring her 87th day of detention by the officials of the People’s Republic of China, some 7,000 miles away from home in an unknown location and in unknown condition, with no contact whatsoever with her husband and her son.

Gao Zhan, who has permanent resident status in the United States, is a scholar at American University studying women’s and family issues, especially as they relate to China and Taiwan. She was held for 43 days before she was even charged with a crime. At that time, the Chinese officials alleged that she was a spy for a foreign government but presented no evidence, aside from asserting that she had supposedly confessed.

Also very troubling was the fact that when she and her husband and son were attempting to leave Beijing after spending the Chinese New Year with her family, her husband and 5-year-old son were also detained and held separately from her for 26 days before being released. In fact, the 5-year-old son was held separately.

Indeed, the coerced separation of young Andrew, who is a U.S. citizen by birth, violated consular agreements with China. But according to Andrew’s father, this detention has also traumatized this youngster psychologically. This once outgoing, talkative little boy has turned inward. He literally clings to his father’s leg almost constantly, and he continues to suffer nightmares,

emotional withdrawal, and other adverse effects. Sometimes he will be eating supper and he will ask his father, “Where is my mother?”

It is often said that we fear what we do not know. For 87 days, Gao Zhan’s family and friends have known precious little about her situation, and they are afraid. They don’t know her location. They do not know her physical condition. They do not know the basis for the charges against her. No one has been permitted to see her—not our consular officials, who have lodged more than a dozen official protests with the Chinese, not the lawyers in Beijing or New York, who are authorized to practice law in China, whom her husband hired. This denial is even a violation of Chinese law. They have not even allowed international humanitarian organizations, such as the Red Cross, to see Gao Zhan.

On April 5, I introduced legislation, S. 702, which would grant Gao Zhan her desire to become a U.S. citizen. Her son, as I mentioned previously, is also a U.S. citizen. Her husband recently completed his oath in the naturalization process—he took the oath 2 months ago—and is a U.S. citizen.

Gao Zhan has met all of the requirements necessary to become a citizen, except for one—raising her hand and taking the oath of allegiance to the United States. She has established residency for at least 5 years prior to her application. In fact, she has lived in the United States since 1989. She passed the INS test on U.S. history, government, and language. And she passed the FBI background investigation.

Gao Zhan has clearly demonstrated her intent and desire to become a U.S. citizen. S. 702 would help effectuate her desire in her absence. At the same time, I believe taking this unprecedented action might help afford her the full range of protections that are accorded to U.S. citizens all around the world.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service has notified the Senate that Gao Zhan meets the requirements for naturalization, including good moral character. I therefore urge my colleagues, both on the Judiciary Committee and in the full Senate, to move this bill to make Gao Zhan a citizen as quickly as possible. While this legislation may not guarantee that China will begin respecting human rights of its own citizens and visitors, it might help reunite a wife and mother with her husband and child.

Gao Zhan’s detention is part of a larger and disturbing pattern of arrests, of which Senator JEFFORDS is well aware, in China and the pattern of arrests of United States-based academics and residents that predates the incident involving detention of our 24 Navy crew members. Over the past several months, we have become aware of the detention of two American citizens of Chinese descent and three Chinese-born holders of American green cards,

including Gao Zhan and another scholar who is a resident of Hong Kong.

I have been made aware that one of these permanent U.S. residents, Liu Yaping, a businessman whom the Chinese have accused of fraud and tax evasion, is reportedly suffering from an aneurysm and his life could be in serious jeopardy. In addition, Gao Zhan also suffers from a chronic heart condition, and her family is understandably concerned about her health.

A number of my colleagues and I have already petitioned the Chinese Embassy for Gao Zhan's release on humanitarian grounds, to no avail. At the very least, Gao Zhan and others being held in China deserve humane treatment, contact with our consular officials, their families, and legal representation.

This sort of treatment of U.S. citizens and residents over the course of the past several months is clearly not the way to mend the frayed and unsettling relations between China and the United States.

I call on our administration to continue doing everything in its power to seek Gao Zhan's return. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation granting her citizenship, and I call on the Chinese Government to release Gao Zhan and return her to her family.

Knowing that the Chinese authorities do not allow any communications—even an e-mail, not even allowing a birthday card—wouldn't it be nice to just get a birthday card signed by her 5-year-old son and her husband, to know that they are OK. Knowing that is not going to be allowed, on behalf of the freedom-loving people of this country and all around the world, I still express our happy birthday wishes and hope our thoughts and prayers and actions will result in Gao Zhan spending her 40th birthday back home with her friends and family, and especially her 5-year-old son who needs his mother.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Virginia for raising this issue. The person he is referring to is the mother of a 5-year-old. I also have taken as a cause Ngawang Choephel, who is a young man from Tibet who attended college and then went back to Tibet to work on trying to make a history of the language and the culture there and was arrested and, without any trial at all, imprisoned and still is in prison.

I finally had to go to the Chinese just to get the mother to see her son, which she was guaranteed to do under Chinese law. We finally did succeed in getting the two together, but he remains incarcerated in Tibet.

These are just a few, I am sure, of many such incidents. We should always keep these in mind when we decide what kind of relationship we are going to have with China.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEVE PENN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Steve Penn for his meritorious service to the U.S. Senate both as a Legislative Fellow and as the Deputy Director of the Marine Corps Liaison Office from July 19, 1996 to April 24, 2001. Lieutenant Colonel Penn's uncompromising professionalism and interpersonal skills provided an immense contribution to the mission of communicating the Commandant's message in the United States Senate. As a fellow, he expertly advised Senator ROBERTS and his staff on matters of national security. In the Senate Liaison Office, he led scores of congressional and staff delegations on fact-finding trips to all corners of the globe with unparalleled ease. Additionally, he routinely prepared and delivered briefs to Senators often involving very complex military and Marine Corps issues, always with diplomacy and candor. Lieutenant Colonel Penn consistently maintained uncompromising standards for dedication and accuracy in his work. His personal pride and loyalty to the Marine Corps guided his work and deeds, and resulted in superior results. His unselfish devotion to duty, exceptional performance, and outstanding professionalism have served the Members of Congress and the professional staff well, and provided a priceless contribution to the Marine Corps. My colleagues join me in wishing Lieutenant Colonel Penn all the very best in his next assignment as a member of the Inspector and Instructor Staff, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Marines in Encino, California.

HONORING THE AAA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL LIFESAVING MEDAL AWARD WINNERS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I am proud to announce to the Senate today the names of the young men and women who have been selected to receive special awards from the American Automobile Association. Three safety patrollers will receive the 2000 AAA School Safety Patrol Lifesaving Medal Award. This award is the highest honor given to members of the school safety patrol.

There are roughly 500,000 members of the school safety patrol in this country, helping in over 50,000 schools. Every day, these young people ensure that their peers arrive safely at school in the morning, and back home in the afternoon.

Most of the time, they accomplish their jobs uneventfully. But, on occasion, these volunteers must make split-second decisions, placing themselves in harm's way to save the lives of others. The heroic actions of this year's recipients exemplify this selflessness, and richly deserve recognition.

The first AAA Lifesaving Medal recipient comes from South San Francisco, CA.

On September 28, 2000, just as children were leaving Our Lady of Mercy School for the day, a car hit another car, veered out of control and plowed into the school parking lot. Safety patroller Dustin Ramirez helped maintain control until rescue and police officials arrived. His quick thinking and courage helped prevent any students from being hurt.

This year's second AAA Lifesaving Medal honoree comes from Brooklyn Center, MN.

On January 4, 2001, safety patroller Stefani Egnell was preventing students at Willow Lane Elementary School from crossing the street until she could determine if a speeding car was going to stop. Stefani prevented one 8-year-old girl from stepping in front of the car. She also pulled a boy who hadn't heard her warning back out of harm's way.

The third AAA Lifesaving Medal winner comes from Manassas, VA.

In March 2000, quick action by safety patroller Jonathan Waldron stopped a third grade student from being hit by a bus that had begun pulling away from the curb. Since the youngster was in the blind spot of the bus, the driver did not see him. Jonathan pulled him out of the path of the bus and prevented what could have been a tragedy.

In addition to honoring safety patrollers with the Lifesaving Medal Award, AAA also recognizes the School Safety Patroller of the year. This award is presented to patrollers who have performed their duties above and beyond their normal responsibilities and demonstrate outstanding leadership, dependability, and academic strength.

Courtney Graf Bernet has been named School Safety Patroller of the Year by AAA Mid-Atlantic. Courtney is a sixth-grader at Lee's Corner Elementary School in Fairfax, VA. In November, 2000, Courtney was on patrol duty when a fellow student alerted her that he was having a seizure. Courtney instinctively knew what to do to make the student safe and comfortable. She helped him sit down on a soft, grassy area, took off his backpack so he wouldn't hurt himself, and sent his sister for help. After the crisis was over, she also made sure the other students at the stop safely got on their bus.

Courtney's friends and teachers describe her as courageous and responsible. She excels at using computers, and when she is faced with a challenge, she perseveres until she succeeds. She and all of the other AAA winners deserve our thanks and applause.

On behalf of the Senate, I extend congratulations and thanks to these young women and men who are visiting the Capitol today. They are an asset to their communities, and their families and neighbors should be very proud of their courage and dedication.

I would also like to recognize the American Automobile Association for providing the supplies and training necessary to keep the safety patrol on duty nationwide.