

drug coverage. Though Medicare works, it was created in a different time before the benefits of prescription medicines had become such an integral part of health care. Today it is unthinkable to think of quality healthcare coverage without including the medicines that treat and prevent illnesses. I have and will continue to fight for Medicare prescription drug coverage. As a cosponsor of the Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage Act of 2001, I recognize the predicament many older Americans are in as they struggle to live independently on a fixed income and afford costly prescription drugs. It is imperative that we address the needs of the Americans who have devoted so much of their life experience and achievement to better our society.

The celebration of Older Americans Month provides us with the opportunity to highlight the importance of the Older Americans Act. As a vigorous and consistent supporter of measures to benefit older Americans, I am pleased that Congress and President Clinton reauthorized this important legislation last year. I commend my colleague from Maryland, Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI, for her tireless efforts in pressing for enactment of The Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000. This legislation funds a dynamic network of community and home-based services so critical to many of our Nation's seniors, including home care, ombudsman services for residents in long-term care facilities, and subsidized employment for older workers.

One of the most beneficial provisions of the Act is the creation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program. The Administration on Aging estimates that each day, as many as 5 million older Americans are recipients of care from more than 22 million informal caregivers. On average, these caregivers will limit their professional opportunities and lose an average of \$550,000 in total wage wealth as they care for their loved ones. Women are 50 percent more likely to be informal caregivers, and as a result, they are more likely to risk their health, earnings and retirement security. As programs such as Medicare and Medicaid continue to feel the pressures of the current Federal budget process, the noble and compassionate work of these dedicated individuals is particularly critical. The National Family Caregiver Support Program addresses the challenges faced by informal caregivers. It authorizes funding for distribution of information to caregivers regarding available services, caregiver training, and respite services to provide families temporary relief from caregiving responsibilities.

I have always believed strongly that this wise population contributes greatly to American society. Our Nation's older generations are an ever-growing resource that deserves our attention, our gratitude, and our heart-felt respect. As observance of Older American Month comes to a close, I look forward

to working with my colleagues in the Senate to implement public policies that affirm the contributions of older Americans to our society and ensure that they continue to thrive with dignity.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY last month. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a heinous crime that occurred November 7, 1999 in Lawrence, KS. Two heterosexual men, one a student at Kansas University, were walking down the street when some men directed anti-gay epithets at them. After responding to the remarks, the two were attacked by five men. One of the victims was knocked backwards on a concrete planter and held down while two attackers struck his face with their fists. The other ran to call the police. This was the third such incident in as many months. One of the victims said that the police initially told him they could not arrest the perpetrators because, "it was their word against ours."

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ROLE OF THE FEDERAL OMBUDSMEN IN DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, last week the General Accounting Office, GAO, released a report I requested entitled "Human Capital: The Role of Ombudsmen in Dispute Resolution." The report studies the use of Federal ombudsman offices as an informal alternative to existing and more conventional processes to deal with personnel conflicts inside Federal agencies.

I know that traditional formal dispute resolution processes have long been criticized. To address these concerns, the Federal Government promotes and encourages alternative methods including the use of ombudsmen. This has resulted in the greater use of alternative dispute resolution, ADR, practices, both because of legislation, specifically the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1990, ADRA, and because of a desire to resolve workplaces conflicts quickly to the mutual benefit of both the employee and the agency. I wish to point out that ombudsmen are not themselves an alternative means of dispute resolution, but rather a neutral practitioner of dispute resolution practices, including ADR techniques, to handle complaints.

I support strong workplace protections to protect Federal employees from arbitrary agency actions and prohibited personnel practices. Ombudsmen provide another way to ensure a more rapid conclusion to workplace problems. These offices may also provide another tool in assisting agencies in attracting, retaining, and motivating their workforces. In fact, this report concludes that "ombudsman offices can offer a useful option for agencies to consider in developing their overall human capital management policies and practices." Another plus is that these offices focus on identifying systemic issues and developing conflict prevention strategies.

The GAO identified 22 workplace ombudsman offices in 10 agencies. Their "best practices" report focuses for illustrative purposes on offices within three agencies: The National Institutes of Health, NIH, the International Broadcasting Bureau, IBB, and the U.S. Secret Service.

NIH has one of the most developed ombudsman offices, which was established in 1997, and now has four full time ombudsmen. The IBB office began as a part-time position in 1988, and now has two full-time officials. The Secret Service's office, started in 1987, employs one full-time staff member and nine collateral-duty people serving the Secret Service's field offices.

These ombudsmen are high-level managers with broad authority to deal with almost any workplace issue, including answering questions about agency policies, cutting through "red tape," counseling employees and coaching them on how to manage situations, handling accusations about employment discrimination, and workplace safety issues. Ombudsmen are a resource for Federal workers with workplace issues; an office which they can consult that is independent, neutral, and provides confidentiality.

The 1990 ADRA authorizes the use of ombudsman offices but does not define or set standards for an ombudsman. The Act, as amended in 1996, established the Interagency ADR Working Group. There is also a Coalition of Federal Ombudsmen. The NIH, IBB, and Secret Service ombudsmen who participated in the GAO report are involved with both these and outside organizations. Some of the non-Federal Government organizations have published or drafted standards of practice for ombudsmen. These standards focus on the core principals of independence, neutrality, and confidentiality, which requires a commitment from the highest levels within an agency. This commitment is the guiding force in the success of the three offices studied by the GAO.

In addition to support from senior management, an ombudsman office must work closely with unions representing Federal workers. The General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority has issued guidance concerning the establishment of ADR

programs and the Federal Service Labor-Management Relations Statute. It is essential that ombudsmen do not come in conflict with the role of unions in protecting worker rights. From the case studies examined by the GAO, there appeared to be good relations between ombudsmen and unions in the agencies where employees are represented by unions. As agencies consider this and other alternatives to traditional dispute resolution, there must be assurances that employees' rights are maintained throughout the process of implementing these practices.

I recommend this General Accounting Office report to my colleagues, and I commend Anthony P. Lofaro of the GAO for his contribution to this report, along with Stephen Altman and Katherine Brentzel. It provides excellent background and a best practices blueprint for Federal agencies as they consider employing ombudsman to assist their employees.

AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on American Indian Heritage Month, which is celebrated in Minnesota in May. It is fitting that we take time during this month to recall the contributions, services and heritage of our fellow Native American citizens, and to remember that the enormous contributions and talents of Native American continue to enrich our lives every day.

In our review of these vital contributions, we must acknowledge the courage, talent, determination, leadership and vision of those men, women and children who made an impact on our Nation in the face of incredible obstacles. We should be mindful, as we celebrate the culture, heritage and spiritual contributions of the first Americans, that we must re-dedicate ourselves to preserving the unique relationship between Native Americans tribal governments and the Federal Government.

Many of the basic principles of our Constitution, such as freedom of speech and separation of powers, were embodied in practices already in use by American Indian tribal prior to our Republic. Many of our deepest values, such as respect for the preservation of natural resources, reverence for elders, and adherence to tradition, find root in American Indian traditions.

The relationship between American Indians and the Federal Government is unique and finds no parallel. When the United States was organized as a Nation, government officials continued the practice from the Dutch and British of making treaty agreements with American Indian Nations whenever land boundaries needed to be clarified or negotiated.

All of the land in Minnesota was gained by the United States through a series of treaties with the Anishinabe and Dakota Nations. Sixteen treaties

and four agreements applied to American Indians of Minnesota. One of the earliest treaties to affect Minnesota's American Indians was the Pike Treaty of 1806, which allowed the Federal Government to claim a small section of land near the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers to build a military fort, which ultimately became known as Fort Snelling. The 1825 Treaty of Prairie du Chien created a boundary between the Dakota to the south and the Ojibwe who lived in the woodland country to the north.

In addition to acknowledging the historical context of the relationship between the Federal Government and the American Indians, we should also recognize the various contemporary entities and contributions of these Bands. Their efforts have helped shape the social, economic and political landscape of our region.

In the area of economic development, the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce has done tremendous work in the area of advanced telecommunications, and other forms of business development to expand economic opportunities for American Indians on reservations as well as in urban areas.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe was honored by the Harvard Project on American Indian Innovation in 1999 for their Ojibwe Language Program. This is a highly successful effort to revitalize the Band's native language by teaching it to their younger members in innovative ways.

Our community also is extremely privileged to have an organization with the capacity and outreach of American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center. This organization provides necessary education and job training skills, serving as a bridge between public school and employment or college for its students.

I am also proud to commend the organizations that comprise the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors for their unwavering efforts to examine and address many critical issues and challenges facing urban American Indians.

Native Americans in my State, and indeed in all fifty States, are justly proud of their heritage and culture. They can be just as proud of their efforts today to preserve that heritage, to protect that culture and to make it relevant for today's Native American children, and it is those efforts that I honor today.

CONFIRMATION OF RESERVE SERVICE CHIEFS

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I rise to mark an historic day for our Nation's military, and specifically the reserves. Yesterday, the U.S. Senate honorably carried out its constitutional duty by approving the Presidential nominations of Reserve Service Chiefs to the rank of three-star. Last year's National Defense Authorization Act for

Fiscal Year 2001, H.R. 4205, required the service secretaries to increase the rank of the Chief of the Navy Reserve, Commander of the Marine Forces Reserve, Chief of the Army Reserve, Chief of the Air Force Reserve, Director of the Army National Guard, and the Director of the Air National Guard to Vice Admiral or Lieutenant General. This mandate was very significant to me and many of my colleagues, as well as those who serve in our reserve forces.

Earlier this year, I was greatly honored to be recognized by the Reserve Officers Association in receiving their highest honor—the Minute Man of the Year Award. The Reserve Officers Association, particularly Rear Admiral Stephen G. Yusem USNR (Retired), deserves great credit for its efforts in working with Congress to ensure that this well-deserved change in promotion authority for the Reserve Chiefs became a reality.

It is especially important to me because of the significant changes I have observed in our Total Force, active duty and Reserve Components since the late-1980s to early-1990s when Senator Glenn chaired the Personnel Subcommittee on the Committee on Armed Services and I was the ranking member on the subcommittee. Back then, reservists were truly weekend warriors. That, however, is not the case now—they are much more than that. Today, reservists work considerably more than weekends, and are as critical a part of the fabric of our National Military Strategy as active duty servicemembers.

The all-volunteer military has largely been a success in our country. However, an unfortunate bi-product has been the increasing chasm between those Americans who have served in the armed services and those who have not. Twenty years ago, scores of elected officials in Washington were veterans. Today, the number of Senators and Congressmen who have worn the uniform of the armed services has rapidly declined.

This military-civilian gap, as some have characterized it, is a troubling reality that we must seek to bridge. It is increasingly difficult for many of our fellow citizens to truly appreciate the sacrifices of those who serve in any capacity. That is another reason that the reserves are so important for our national life. Our reserve servicemembers not only protect our liberty, but also serve as the indispensable link to those Americans in civilian life not ordinarily touched in their daily lives by the sacrifice, honor and privilege of military service.

The roles and missions of the Reserve Components have changed over the past several years, as the active duty force has evolved from the downsizing of our military forces during the last decade. For example, in March 2001, the Army National Guard 29th Infantry Division took command of the American peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. The significance of this deployment is that