

sought 26 death sentences and obtained only one.

Doubts about the validity of some prosecution evidence—sown most recently by the scandal involving alleged flaws in the work of Oklahoma City police chemist Joyce Gilchrist—may have also made juries more reluctant to impose the death penalty in the state. Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson, whose office is reviewing the cases of all 121 death-row inmates in the state to see if additional DNA testing is called for, has declined to set an execution date for any of the 12 against whom Ms. Gilchrist had testified. Ms. Gilchrist, who was suspended by the Oklahoma City police department in March and now faces a state investigation of her work, said in an interview, “I stand by my testimony.”

Republican Gov. Keating says further steps are needed. He proposes a higher standard of proof—“moral certainty” of guilt—for capital cases, instead of the families’ absence-of-reasonable-doubt standard used in criminal trials. “The people now expect moral certainty,” says Mr. Keating. “No system can survive if it’s fallible.”

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam 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 terrible crime that occurred August 19, 2000, in San Francisco, California. Two men were arrested on charges of stalking, assaulting and robbing men in gay bars in what police say was a “brazen, bicoastal crime spree that included four robberies in Maine and vicious attacks on gays,” including slashing one victim’s throat, in California. The perpetrators were arrested after a bouncer at a gay bar recognized their distinctive Boston accents after reading about them in a warning flier distributed by police.

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.

TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELLINGHAM WASHINGTON PIPE- LINE EXPLOSION

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, on June 10th families in Bellingham, WA and throughout my home State will mark the 2-year anniversary of a pipeline explosion that killed three young people.

That tragic explosion changed three families forever. It shattered a community’s sense of security. It showed us the dangers posed by aging, uninspected oil and gas pipelines. That disaster in Bellingham led me to learn about pipeline safety, to testify before

Congress, to introduce the first pipeline safety bill of the 106th Congress, and ultimately to pass legislation in the Senate in September 2000 and again in February of this year.

The Senate has done its job. Twice the Senate has passed the strongest pipeline safety measures to ever pass either chamber of Congress. Now it’s time for the House and President Bush to do their part.

The bill we passed in the Senate is a major step forward. It isn’t everything everyone could want, but it is a significant move in the right direction. Specifically, the bill: Improves the Qualification and Training of Pipeline Personnel, Improves Pipeline Inspection and Prevention Practices, Requires internal inspection at least once every five years, Expands the Public’s Right to Know about Pipeline Hazards, Raises the Penalties for Safety Violators, Enables States to Expand their Safety Efforts, Invests in New Technology to Improve Safety, Protects Whistle blowers, and Increases Funding for Safety Efforts by \$13 billion.

Here we are, 2 years after that disaster in Bellingham and the legislation we’ve passed in the Senate still hasn’t become law. That is inexcusable. The Bush Administration just issued an energy plan that calls for 38,000 new miles of pipeline. As I told the Vice President in a letter recently, before we build thousands of miles of pipelines through our backyards, our neighborhoods and our communities, we must make sure those pipelines are safe.

Unfortunately, the President’s energy plan offered some rhetoric about pipeline safety, but no clear progress. I believe he missed an opportunity to articulate the Administration’s specific proposals to make pipelines safer. I hope President Bush will agree that we shouldn’t replace our current energy crisis with a pipeline safety crisis.

Let me offer three ways President Bush can show his commitment to public safety. The first one is simple. We shouldn’t backtrack on safety. Comprehensive new legislation which has passed the Senate and is pending in the House should represent the new minimum of safety standards. President Bush should not send us a proposal that is less stringent than this bill. President Bush should not undo the progress we made last year. And I hope he’ll show a sensitivity to safety and environmental concerns that have been absent from his discussions on this issue to date.

Second, President Bush should signal his support of pipeline safety legislation, which I hope will ultimately take the form of him signing a bill into law.

Finally, President Bush’s Department of Transportation should continue to issue administrative rules to make pipelines safer. The Clinton administration took several important administrative steps. I hope the Bush administration will show the same level of commitment.

We do need to address our energy needs, but not at the expense of our

safety. Let’s make pipelines safe first, before we lay down more pipelines.

If we learned anything last year, it’s that we must not wait for another tragedy to force us to act. We must pass a comprehensive pipeline safety bill this year.

In the coming weeks and months, as a member of Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, I will continue to do everything I can to improve pipeline safety by making sure that pipeline regulators have the resources they need to do their jobs effectively.

I know that we can’t undo what happened in Bellingham, but we can take the lessons from the Bellingham tragedy and put them into law so that families will know the pipelines near their homes are safe. Two years after the Bellingham disaster they deserve nothing less.

NATIONAL CORRECTION OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES WEEK

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Madam President, I am proud to rise today as an original cosponsor of Senator JEFFORDS’ and Senator FEINSTEIN’s resolution designating this week as “National Correction Officers and Employees Week.” I commend them for their efforts to honor the 200,000 men and women who work in our Federal and State correctional institutions. Too often, American citizens overlook the importance of these men and women who must work with society’s most hardened and dangerous criminals under difficult circumstances.

Today, I want them to know how much I admire and appreciate them for their willingness to face danger daily as they work to enforce our Nation’s laws and ensure the safety of all American citizens. At this time, I also offer my condolences to the families and friends of the 11 correctional officers who died in the line of duty last year. I am deeply appreciative of their sacrifices and am sorry for their loss.

TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI- BIAN’S HISTORIC VISIT

Mr. ALLEN. Madam President, as President Chen Shui-bian of the Republic of China on Taiwan made his historic visit to the United States last month, I would like to congratulate him on his leadership and vision for Taiwan. President Chen became the second democratically-elected President in Chinese history little over one year ago, and his election was certainly a milestone in Taiwan’s continued adherence to democracy and freedom.

I believe that President Chen’s historic visit deserves the notice and respect of the U.S. Senate. Congress has long supported democratic development around the world, and Taiwan is no exception. Taiwan today is a notable model of rapid and successful democratic reform, as well as an important

trading partner of the United States, having maintained amicable ties with our Nation for decades. What may also not be known is that Taiwan imports over 1.6 times as many goods from the United States as does the People's Republic of China. Taiwan is a vital economic partner for the United States.

Taiwan's economy offers its people one of the highest standards of living in Asia, including universal education, excellent medical care, and a well-developed social welfare policy. Moreover, Taiwan's Constitution is exemplary, guaranteeing full political freedoms and basic human rights to all citizens. As Taiwan continues its democratic development, President Chen and the people of Taiwan deserve our most sincere praise for their exemplary adherence to individual liberty and freedom.

In the future, Taiwan's continued achievements and development will reinforce its regional position and strengthen the good relationship between our two countries.

CHAMPLAIN COLLEGE, BURLINGTON, VERMONT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President. I rise today to talk about a unique education program nestled in the hills of Burlington, VT. Champlain College is one of the many higher education institutions in my home State and it has distinguished itself as a leader in career-oriented education. Under the leadership of President Roger Perry, Champlain College provides its students with innovative distance learning and workforce development programs to build the skills of Vermonters. While I have long known of the quality offerings of Champlain College, I was very pleased to see a story in the Los Angeles Times recently about one program in particular that serves single parents on welfare who want to earn a college degree.

With the recent reform by the Federal Government of our Nation's welfare system, many individuals are seeking training that can lead to better jobs and ultimately to increased wages. In response to this growing need, an 11-year-old program at Champlain College aimed at moving single parents off welfare is receiving attention nationwide. The impressive statistics from this public-private partnership clearly indicate its success—less than 10 percent of those participating in the program drop out; most in the program earn a 2-year associate degree; and, many even go on to receive a 4-year bachelor's degree. According to President Roger Perry, more than 90 percent of the single parents who graduate from this program have not returned to the welfare program. This program is helping single parents break the welfare cycle and show their children the importance of getting a college degree as a step toward supporting themselves and their family. Its success also reinforces Champlain

College's role in Vermont as a leader in career-oriented education. I commend President Roger Perry, the faculty and staff, and especially the students for continuing to make Champlain College a model for quality higher education.

I ask unanimous consent that the following article from the May 13, 2001 issue of the Los Angeles Times be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 13, 2001]

(By Elizabeth Mehren)

VT. COLLEGE SINGLES OUT PARENTS EDUCATION: UNIQUE CURRICULUM THAT HELPS WELFARE MOTHERS GET JOB TRAINING HAS BECOME A NATIONAL MODEL

BURLINGTON, Vt.—What galls Dulcie Christian is when her Champlain College classmates say they didn't get their papers done because they were out drinking all night.

"I think, well, I was up all night with two sick kids and I did get mine done," Christian said. "Plus, I did the laundry."

As a participant in an unusual state-supported college program geared to move single parents off welfare, Christian, 33, is well aware of how her life diverges from the conventional undergraduate path. There's no room for wild parties. And instead of spring breaks in Jamaica, Christian uses time off to double up on hours working at the local Social Security office. Her old Subaru just better hold itself together, because there's no deep-pockets daddy to bail her out. More than once, in a pinch, Christian has brought Justin, 9, or Shelby, 5, to class with her.

FEWER THAN 10% DROP OUT

For Christian and the 60 or so other single parents enrolled at Champlain this semester, the challenges are immense. And yet, said program director Carol Moran-Brown, "The retention rate for these single parents is higher than the school average. You wouldn't believe the motivation."

With federal welfare reform providing an impetus for recipients to train for better jobs, the 11-year-old program at this private college has emerged as a national model.

Typically, college officials say, fewer than 10% of these students drop out; most in the program earn a two-year associate of arts degree and many go on for a four-year bachelor's degree. More than 90% of the single-parent graduates have not returned to welfare rolls, said Champlain College President Roger H. Perry.

Those are strong indicators, Perry said, that the program is achieving its goal of helping to shatter the cycle of single parents living off government assistance.

State money pays the salaries of Champlain's two full-time social workers devoted to single-parent students—almost always women, through the occasional single dad enrolls. State subsidies also fund the day care that enables these parents to take classes at the 1,400-student campus. The program is labor intensive, with workshops and weekly social hours at which single parents trade everything from outgrown snowsuits to names of kid-friendly professors.

For a group often made up of first-generation college students, social workers focus on time and stress management, as well as study skills. The students and social workers often meet daily, discussing what's going on academically—and also addressing such outside issues as abusive boyfriends, nasty landlords and sick babies. Budgets are a big topic, as many single parents struggle to get by on welfare payments while attending the

four-year college. When it all becomes too much, "that's when I show up at their door, saying, 'I'm concerned about you, what's going on? Can I lend a hand?'" social worker Felicia Messuri said.

Champlain is a career-oriented school where most students easily step into jobs upon graduation. But Moran-Brown said the 97% job placement rate in the single-parent program stands out. A state study is underway to determine how well the single-parent graduates do over time—and how their experience compares to single parents who do not finish college.

Last year, Champlain received \$96,000 in state money to run the program. An experimental seven-year federal waiver allowing Vermont to use special support funds for the single-parent college program expires in June. Eager to continue the program, the state Legislature passed a measure allowing the state's social welfare agency—Prevention, Assistance, Training and Health Access—to allocate discretionary funds for single parents in college.

At Champlain, single-parent students pay full \$10,000-a-year tuition. But they are eligible for grants and loans. Under state rules, their welfare checks are not in jeopardy if they also hold down jobs.

When state supplements for transportation, caseworker salaries and incidentals are factored in, supporting each single-parent college student costs about \$500 per year above the normal welfare allotment, Moran-Brown said. "It's cheap," she said.

PARENTS AND KIDS DO HOMEWORK TOGETHER

In Vermont, an unemployed single parent with one child usually receives about \$557 each month, she said.

Noting that the endeavor benefits the state and students alike, PATH's deputy commissioner, Sandy Dooley, said her office views the single-parent college program as "a work-force development strategy" that could easily be replicated elsewhere.

For 23-year-old Cindy Sarault, it was dissatisfaction with a \$5.65-an-hour job as a grocery clerk that pushed her to study accounting at Champlain. Now she and her 5-year-old daughter, Brooke, often do homework together.

Like Sarault, classmate Heidi McMann, 21, got pregnant as a high school senior. After two years as a low-wage office assistant, McMann signed on at Champlain to study computer networking.

"Partly it was about getting somewhere in life, so I could get a decent job," she said. "But also I wanted Taylor, my daughter, to learn from me, not just see me working in dead-end, low-wage positions forever."

Only a few miles from campus, in the small apartment she shares with her two children, Christian agreed that a big payoff is "setting an example of how important school is."

As the first member of her family to graduate from high school, Christian said it never crossed her mind to continue her own education. "I thought college was for people who can write papers," she said.

Then someone mentioned the single-parents program at Champlain. She tried a class and liked it so much she quit her clerical job. To the horror of her working-class parents, she went on welfare and sought out state child-care subsidies.

Soon Christian was set on a career in social work, and earning a 3.97 grade point average. Graduation is a year away, and Christian has a job lined up at the Social Security Administration. She said that after juggling school, a job and two kids, she is unfazed by the prospect of paying off college debt of at least \$25,000.

For her, the biggest obstacle has been "making it through the tough times, when