

critical in order to guarantee a healthy generation of children in America. To this end, I, along with my Senate and House colleagues, have introduced the Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act, 582 and H.R. 1143, to give States the option to provide health care coverage through Medicaid and CHIP.

Legal immigrant children who came to this country after August 22, 1996 are no different than those who arrived before that date or kids who were born on American soil. Our children go to school together, study together and play together.

On this World Refugee Day, I call upon the Congress and the President to work in earnest to eliminate the arbitrary designation of August 22, 1996 as a cutoff date for allowing children to get health care.

Let us treat the hard working people in our nation, regardless of their immigration status, with fairness and dignity.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I am increasingly concerned about the stalled promise of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. There are many indications that the pro-competitive course we charted in 1996 when we enacted the Telecommunications Act is not moving as quickly as we intended. In response to that landmark law, hundreds of companies invested billions of dollars in an effort to bring a choice of service provider to local consumers. Yet the competitive telecommunications industry has virtually collapsed in the past year. Every day brings reports of competitors declaring bankruptcy, shutting down operations, or scaling back plans to offer service. Even in my home State, five competitive local exchange carriers with major operations in Tennessee have gone bankrupt.

We have all read recent reports of the difficulties that competitive telecommunications firms are facing in the current economic downturn. For those that continue to struggle in operation, stock prices have plunged, and the capital market has virtually dried up. While telecommunications companies captured an average of two billion dollars per month in initial public offerings over the last two years, they raised only \$76 million in IPOs in March, leading numerous companies to withdraw their IPO plans.

The difficulty in entering local markets has also caused nearly all competitors to scale back their plans to offer service. Covad had established offices in Chattanooga, Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville, but is now closing down over 250 central offices, and will suspend applications for 500 more facilities. Rhythms has cancelled plans to expand nationwide. Net2000 has put its plans for expansion on hold. Numerous other competitors, such as DSL.net, have resolved to focus on a

few core markets. Each of these decisions has been accompanied by hundreds of eliminated jobs. In all, competitive local carriers dismissed over 6500 employees nationwide in the last year while attempting to remain in business. Tennessee is among the hardest hit States.

The repercussions of these events on consumers is significant. Competitors reinvested most of their 2000 revenues in local network facilities. Competitors that declared bankruptcy in 2000 had planned to spend over \$600 million on capital expenditures in 2001. Those competitive networks will not be available to consumers.

In this uncertain financial climate, it is imperative that we maintain a stable regulatory framework. The 1996 Telecom Act established three pathways to a more competitive local telecommunications marketplace: a new entrant could purchase local telephone services at wholesale rates from the incumbent and resell them to local customers; a competitor could lease specific pieces of the incumbent's network on an unbundled basis, using what the industry calls unbundled network elements; or a competitor could build its own facilities and interconnect them with the incumbent's network. Each of these alternatives must remain available to new entrants. Making fundamental changes to the structure of the 1996 Act will destabilize the already shaky competitive local exchange industry, depriving consumers of even the prospects for meaningful choice.

Recent press reports indicate that investors will not sink more money into local competitors when there is a "growing view that regulators are working against the new entrants." We need to ensure that the market-opening requirements of the 1996 Act are vigorously implemented. Without a supportive regulatory environment, there will be no more capital flowing to new entrants in the local telecommunications market spurring competition and lower consumer prices. This was not the promise of the Telecommunications Act I voted for in 1996.

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 in March of this year. 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 November 7, 1998 in Easton, MA. An Easton teenager threw a large rock at a 17-year-old boy he thought was gay, kicked him in the head and yelled, swore, and called the victim a "fag." The victim suffered a broken nose and a concussion. A week before the assault, the perpetrator told friends he hated gay people and thought they should be beaten up.

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.

AMENDMENT NO. 805 TO ESEA

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate passed, by unanimous consent, an important amendment that will protect our children from pesticide exposure in our Nation's schools. Inadvertently, Senators BOXER and REID were left off this amendment as original cosponsors. I would like the record to reflect that Senator BOXER and Senator REID should have been listed as original cosponsors of amendment #805 to H.R. 1, the Better Education for Students and Teachers Act.

I regret this unfortunate oversight, as these two Senators are largely responsible for the passage of this amendment. They have as much claim to authorship of this important effort as any Member of this body. If not for their commitment to the protection of our Nation's children, we would not be celebrating the passage of this amendment today. Were it not for Senator BOXER's unwavering commitment to protecting our children, as she has done with the introduction of the Children's Environmental Protection Act, the Senate would not even be having this debate. Were it not for Senator REID's understanding of the important issues facing the Senate, and his advocacy as a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, this amendment would not have enjoyed the support that it has.

I thank my friends for their support and ask that the Senate recognize Senator BOXER and Senator REID as original cosponsors of the School Environmental Protection Amendment.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, June 19, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,641,114,076,861.51, five trillion, six hundred forty-one billion, one hundred fourteen million, seventy-six thousand, eight hundred sixty-one dollars and fifty-one cents.

One year ago, June 19, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,649,976,000,000, five trillion, six hundred forty-nine billion, nine hundred seventy-six million.

Five years ago, June 19, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,120,985,000,000, five trillion, one hundred twenty billion, nine hundred eighty-five million.

Ten years ago, June 19, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,498,343,000,000, three trillion, four hundred ninety-eight billion, three hundred forty-three million.

Fifteen years ago, June 19, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,039,961,000,000,

two trillion, thirty-nine billion, nine hundred sixty-one million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$3.5 trillion, \$3,601,153,076,861.51, three trillion, six hundred one billion, one hundred fifty-three million, seventy-six thousand, eight hundred sixty-one dollars and fifty-one cents during the past 15 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE RETIREMENT OF REVEREND EDDIE K. EDWARDS

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to a remarkable person from my home State of Michigan, the Reverend Eddie K. Edwards, who celebrates his retirement as CEO of Joy of Jesus, Inc. on Friday, June 22. Reverend Edwards, has received national acclamations, for having developed and implemented a strategy that served to revitalize the Ravendale Community, one of Detroit's most distressed and underserved areas. He has embodied the work of his ministry and fulfilled his mission of providing positive direction and opportunities for those in need of such guidance.

In 1976, Reverend Edwards established Joy of Jesus, Inc. a nonprofit organizations which set as its primary goal, the task of promoting positive values and healthy lifestyles as a means to help underprivileged youth become responsible citizens who can make a meaningful contribution to society. For this work, he has received national attention: a Points of Light Award and was featured in a national award-winning TV documentary entitled, "A Neighborhood Redeemed." Reverend Edwards serves on the board of numerous community and civic organizations, all of which he devotes an inordinate amount of time. He is in frequent demand as a speaker on the topics of church empowerment, collaboration of churches, neighborhood revitalization, and various other community issues. He has repeatedly demonstrated his expertise in developing non-traditional partnerships and collaboratives which have had significant impact on his community and in particular, the lives of our younger generation. And, in spite of his commitment and involvement in community, he is a devoted husband and father of six adult children.

I can only hope that in Reverend Edward's retirement he finds future endeavors are as successful and fulfilling as the previous ones. For certain, he will remain active in his many church and community activities, but will have more time to dedicate to his favorite hobbies—golfing and jogging. I am pleased to join his colleagues and friends in offering my thanks for all he has accomplished in making his community a better place.

Reverend Eddie K. Edwards can take pride in his long career of service and dedication to Church, Community and

Family. I invite my colleagues to join me in saluting Reverend Edwards' work, and in wishing him well in the years ahead.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 819. An act to designate the Federal building located at 143 West Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio, as the "Donald J. Pease Federal Building".

H.R. 1291. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of educational benefits for veterans under the Montgomery GI Bill.

H.R. 1753. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 419 Rutherford Avenue, N.E., in Roanoke, Virginia, as the "M. Caldwell Butler Post Office Building".

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 154. A concurrent resolution honoring the continued commitment of the Army National Guard combat units deployed in support of Army operations in Bosnia, recognizing the sacrifices made by the members of those units while away from their jobs and families during those deployments, recognizing the important role of all National Guard and Reserve personnel at home and abroad to the national security of the United States, and acknowledging, honoring, and expressing appreciation for the critical support by employers of the Guard and Reserve.

H. Con. Res. 163. A concurrent resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of Congress that history be regarded as a means of understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 1029. An act to clarify the authority of the Department of Housing and Urban Development with respect to the use of fees during fiscal year 2001 for the manufactured housing program.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 41. A concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol grounds for the National Book Festival.

The message further announced that pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 4703, the majority leader appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation: Mr. STUMP of Arizona.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 303(a) of Public Law 106-286, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: Mr. BERUTER of Nebraska, co-Chairman; Mr. LEACH of Iowa, Mr. DREIER of California; Mr. WOLF of Virginia; and Mr. PITTS of Pennsylvania.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 819. An act to designate the Federal building located at 143 West Liberty Street, Medina, Ohio, as the "Donald J. Pease Federal Building"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 1291. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of educational benefits for veterans under the Montgomery GI Bill; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1753. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 419 Rutherford Avenue, N.E., in Roanoke, Virginia, as the "M. Caldwell Butler Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 154. Concurrent resolution honoring the continued commitment of the Army National Guard combat units deployed in support of Army operations in Bosnia, recognizing the sacrifices made by the members of those units while away from their jobs and families during those deployments, recognizing the important role of all National Guard and Reserve personnel at home and abroad to the national security of the United States, and acknowledging, honoring, and expressing appreciation for the critical support by the employers of the Guard and Reserve; to the Committee on Armed Services.

H. Con. Res. 163. Concurrent resolution recognizing the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day and expressing the sense of Congress that history be regarded as a means of understanding the past and solving the challenges of the future; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-2521. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, transmitting, a draft of proposed legislation entitled "Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 2002 and 2003"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.