

in February, 2001. It is time to get this done.

The criticism made on the floor that the juvenile justice provisions in the conference report never passed the House or Senate is simply wrong. The conference report contains juvenile justice provisions passed by the House in September and October of last year, in H.R. 863 and H.R. 1900.

The criticism that the conference report contains criminal justice improvements that were passed by neither the House or the Senate glosses over two important points: First, that many of the provisions were indeed passed by the House, and, second, that others have been blocked from Senate consideration and passage by anonymous Republican holds. Let me give you some examples.

The conference report contains the Judicial Improvements Act, S. 2713 and HR 3892, that passed the House in July, 2002, but consideration by the Senate was blocked after the Senate bill was reported by the Judiciary Committee.

The Antitrust Technical Corrections bills, H.R. 809, had the same fate. After being passed by the House in March, 2001, and reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee, consideration was blocked in the Senate.

CONCLUSION

This conference report is a comprehensive attempt to ensure the administration of justice in our nation. It is not everything I would like or that any individual Member of Congress might have authored.

It is a conference report, a consensus document, a product of the give and take with the House that is our legislative process. It will strengthen our Justice Department and the FBI, increase our preparedness against terrorist attacks, prevent crime and drug abuse, improve our intellectual property and antitrust laws, strengthen and protect our judiciary, and offer our children a safe place to go after school.

The conference report merits the support of the United States Senate to help the Justice Department and the American people.

FY 2003 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. SNOWE. Madam President, I rise today to speak briefly about my support for the fiscal year 2003 National Defense Authorization Conference Report and would like to particularly endorse its name as the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 in recognition of the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee's 25 years of distinguished service to that Committee.

I also acknowledge the senior Senator from Michigan, Mr. CARL LEVIN, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, for the leadership he provided in support of the authorization bill, and, of course, the ranking member, Senator JOHN WARNER of Virginia, whose tireless efforts on behalf of vet-

erans led to the final agreements that brought this bill to the floor.

Let me recognize the efforts of every Senator on the Committee. As a former member of that committee, I well understand the long hours and persistent effort needed to move this vital bipartisan legislation.

The conference report takes great strides toward improving the quality of service for our dedicated men and women of the military, modernizing our armed services, and making our homeland safe.

Because we recognize that our service members are our most valuable asset, this legislation makes a solid investment in their quality of life by increasing pay and enhancing educational and health care opportunities for our active duty military members and their family members. And that is only right, for today we are asking a great deal of our gallant young men and women as they guard our Nation at home and abroad in this dangerous and deadly post-September 11 world.

This legislation recognizes that we also owe a continuing debt to those who have served honorably by finally granting combat-wounded military retirees the same benefit available to every other retired Federal employee—the ability to collect full retirement pay and disability entitlements without offsets. There is much work to be done before we achieve the full equity of concurrent receipt for all disabled military retirees, but as Senator WARNER has appropriately noted, we have established a “beachhead” for this issue.

I do find it regrettable, however, that the conference report does not complete the job of overturning the ban on privately funded abortion services in overseas military hospitals for military women and dependents based overseas, which was reinstated in the Fiscal Year 1996 authorization bill.

This is a ban that, without merit or reason, puts the reproductive health of these women at risk . . . a ban that the Senate voted to overturn in June by a vote of 52-40. Sadly, this is the second time that this policy change, which has been supported by the majority of the Senate, has fallen victim to the conference committee process.

This ban continues to be a threat to more than just the freedoms of American military women overseas, it's also a threat to their health because it places them at the mercy of the local health care infrastructure in whatever country that they are based. While I support this conference report, I remain deeply disappointed that the conference did not include this critical change of policy regarding this arbitrary ban.

As for modernizing our forces, let me speak on an area that is critical to the security of the Nation—shipbuilding. We are learning that in order to effectively engage the forces of terror wherever they hide, we must have the ability to project our power immediately

to any part of the globe. Today, we can do that by dispatching our forces in carrier battle groups or amphibious ready groups. However, as a former chair of the Seapower Subcommittee, I remained concerned, as I know the committee is, about the continuing decline in shipbuilding investments made by the Navy.

I note the conferees included detailed language about the Navy's ship acquisition program and completely agree with their conclusion that, without a fully vetted long range ship-building program, we will be faced with a Navy that is unable to carry out the missions assigned to them in both the short-term and the long-term.

To quote the report, “Absent more immediate investment, DOD will have to reduce the number or scope of missions assigned to Navy ships. Witnesses have testified that, if neither course is incorporated in future Navy budget programs, the men and women of the Navy and the Marine Corps will bear the burden of these decisions through some combination of longer deployments and less time at home between deployments.”

I find that very troubling indeed in these dangerous times.

Therefore, I am encouraged this legislation mandates stronger shipbuilding funding and construction in the future years. Provisions such as section 1022 that requires the Navy to submit an annual 30 year shipbuilding plan with their budget request will not only assist us in understanding the Navy's ship recapitalization plan but will ensure that the Department of Defense and Navy are committed to buying the number and type of ships necessary to fulfill all of their missions.

I am also pleased that this authorization provides \$2.4 billion for the construction of two DDG-51 *Arleigh-Burke* class destroyers and extends through fiscal year 2007 the multi-year procurement authority for that class. For it is these ships, along with cruisers and frigates, that provide protection to the carriers and amphibious ships we are deploying to the Persian Gulf to prosecute the war on terrorism. Surface combatants are the backbone of our Navy and I support section 1021 that requires the Secretary of the Navy to notify Congress should the number of active and reserve surface combatant ships drop below 116.

The legislation also looks to the future by authorizing almost \$970 million for the development of technologies to be incorporated into the next generation of surface combatant, the DD(X) land attack destroyer. Moreover, it adds \$5 million for the DDG Destroyer Optimized Manning Initiative, a Navy effort to enhance the operational effectiveness of Aegis destroyers with new technologies, policies and procedures to significantly reduce crew workload and improve readiness.

The legislation authorizes \$10.4 billion, \$376 million more than requested, for science and technology programs

including many that will be performed in Maine to protect our troops and our homeland such as the project designed to help identify and address the needs of military personnel in the event of a biowarfare attack.

Of potentially significant value to the Navy, it authorizes \$1 million for research at the University of Maine aimed at developing a specialized structural reliability analysis process to optimize the use of polymers in future ship construction, and provides \$5 million in funding for development of a Small Kill Vehicle Technology, aimed at improving the accuracy of missile and anti-missile technology.

Furthermore, among the more critical provisions of this legislation are those aimed at protecting our homeland. It provides the President with \$10 billion for the war against terrorism including \$4.3 billion for military operations and \$1 billion for equipment replacement and upgrades to military capabilities.

And finally, the legislation includes almost \$1 billion for Chem-Bio programs designed to provide advanced individual protection and equipment to detect and decontaminate chemical and biological agents, as well as an additional \$480 million for DoD homeland security and consequence management.

This authorization provides the men and women of our armed forces with the equipment they need to accomplish their mission, the quality of life they have earned and security for their families. I have been proud to support this legislation because in a year when our Nation is facing unprecedented security challenges and dangers, we can do no less.

THE PIPELINE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2002

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, I am pleased that last night the Senate unanimously passed pipeline safety legislation in the form of H.R. 3609, the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002. This bill is the product of over three years of bipartisan work and compromise, and I thank my colleague, Senator MCCAIN, for his leadership on this important issue.

Mr. MCCAIN. I would like to thank my many colleagues for joining us in supporting this important legislation. This bill will result in improvements in the safety regulatory program at the Department of Transportation, increased levels of safety throughout our national pipeline system, and in the communities through which pipelines run. This bill contains several important improvements, including: requirements for minimum standards for pipeline integrity management programs, requirements for public education programs, and requirements that the Office of Pipeline Safety and the Research and Special Programs Administration comply with safety recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board and the

Department of Transportation Inspector General, many of which have already been started.

Mr. HOLLINGS. To expedite enactment of the significant pipeline safety reforms included in this bill, the leadership of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has worked with the House Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce in developing the compromise agreement. This Joint Explanatory Statement therefore represents the views of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce Committee, along with the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee. This Joint Explanatory Statement will provide legislative history for interpreting this important pipeline safety legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be printed in the RECORD.

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

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title; amendment of title 49, United States Code

This section designates the act as the "Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002."

Section 2. One-call notification programs

This section requires that state one-call notification programs provide for the participation of government operators and contract excavators. Section 2 also requires that state one-call notification programs document enumerated items set forth in the statute. Additionally, the requirement that the Secretary of Transportation include certain information in reports submitted under section 60124 of Title 49 is made permanent. Authorizations for appropriations for grants to states for fiscal years 2003 through 2006 are provided at \$1,000,000 per year, and grants for administration in section 6107(b) are updated for fiscal years 2003 through 2006. This section also amends section 6105 of Title 49 by requiring the Secretary of Transportation to encourage the states, operators of one-call notification programs, operators of underground facilities, and excavators (including government and contract excavators) to use the practices set forth in the best practices report entitled "Common Ground," as periodically updated, and requires the Secretary of Transportation to provide technical assistance to a non-profit organization specifically established for the purpose of reducing construction-related damage to underground facilities. Authorizations for appropriations for fiscal years 2003 through 2006 are provided at \$500,000 per year, but would not be derived from user fees collected under section 60301 of title 49.

Section 3. One-call notification of pipeline operators

This section provides for the enforcement of one-call notification programs by a state authority if the state's program meets the requirements set forth in the statute. The application of the term "person" who intends to engage in an activity necessitating the use of the one-call system is expanded to include government employees or contractors.

This section amends section 60123(d) of Title 49 by rearranging the phrase "knowingly and willfully" to address the problem raised when a court interpreted ex-

isting law to require a knowing and willful standard to, not only engaging in an excavation activity, but also to subsequently damaging a pipeline facility. The consequence of the court's interpretation makes prosecutions more difficult by requiring the government to show the defendant knew subsequent damages would result from excavation activity and that the defendant's conduct was willful. This section of the bill corrects the court's interpretation by now requiring that the "knowingly and willfully" standard apply only to engaging in an excavation activity.

This section also provides that penalties under the criminal penalties section can be reduced if the violator promptly reports a violation.

Section 4. State oversight role

This section amends section 60106 of Title 49 to allow the Secretary of Transportation to make an agreement with a state authority authorizing the state authority to participate in the oversight of interstate pipeline transportation including incident investigation, new construction, and other inspection and investigatory duties. However the Secretary shall not delegate the enforcement of safety standards for interstate pipeline facilities to a state authority. This section further provides that the Secretary may terminate agreements with the State authorities if a gap results in the State authority's oversight responsibilities of intrastate pipeline transportation, the State authority fails to meet requirements set forth in this section, or continued participation in the oversight of interstate pipeline transportation would not promote pipeline safety. Existing state agreements shall continue until a new agreement between the state and the DOT is executed or December 31, 2003, whichever is sooner.

Section 5. Public education programs

Section 5 amends section 60116 of Title 49 to include hazardous liquid pipeline facilities in this section requiring a continuing program to educate the public on the use of one-call notification systems, the possible hazards associated with unintended releases, and how to tell if an unintended release occurred, what steps should be taken for public safety in the event of a pipeline release, and how to report such an event. This section also requires owners and operators to review existing public education programs for effectiveness and to modify their programs as necessary. In addition, the section allows the Secretary to issue standards prescribing the elements of public education programs and develop materials for use in such programs.

Previous versions of Senate-passed pipeline safety legislation also included a provision calling for the coordination of emergency preparedness between operators of pipeline facilities and state and local officials, as well as to provide for public access to certain safety information. Agreement was not reached on how safety information could be accessed by the public in a manner that would protect security-sensitive information from distribution. The managers agreed that this issue would be better dealt with in the context of the pending homeland security legislation.

Section 6. Protection of employees providing pipeline safety information

This section adds provisions for the protection of employees who are discharged or otherwise discriminated against with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment for (1) providing information to the federal government about alleged violations of Federal law relating to pipeline safety; (2) refusing to participate in any practice made illegal by Federal law relating to pipeline safety; or (3) assisting or