

said there will never be a lot of women lawyers because they have to carry these big briefcases and big files. Well, he was certainly wrong because a lot of men practice law that don't carry big files and big briefcases. Now there are a lot of women who practice law who carry big briefcases and big files. It has been found that they are just as good in court as men. They are just as good at drawing wills and working in corporate America as men. So Title IX has helped provided equal access to education for women.

Years ago, many universities excluded or severely restricted women from admission to certain programs. Now, however, the percentages of women enrolled in American law schools and medical schools are about the same as for men.

Unfortunately, according to reports recently issued by the National Women's Law Center and the National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education, young women continue to be subject to persistent gender segregation and discriminatory counseling in high school vocational and technical education programs at American high schools. There was a wonderful piece a week ago last Saturday about women on public radio about how girls are treated in high school, about going into programs that are vocational in nature, mathematics in nature. School counselors talk them out of it every day. While we are speaking, counselors are telling girls: why don't you take up something else? How about being a nurse or a school teacher? You don't want to go into vocational education or work on cars. But they do and they do just as well as men working on cars. So there is some real significant discriminatory practice there.

They are often steered toward programs like cosmetology, health aide preparation, and child care training, nursing, teaching all of which lead to lower paying jobs most of the time; while male students congregate in programs leading to higher paying careers in technology and the trades. This has significant negative implications for women's employment prospects and earning power.

We need to vigorously defend and enforce Title IX in all of the areas it covers, so that we can sustain and expand upon the progress we have made.

Often we hear that girls and women are the beneficiaries of Title IX, but I think it is more accurate to say that we all benefit from this important civil rights legislation—these affirmative action programs that are Title IX. Certainly, American society as a whole is better when women—who, after all, make up more than half of our population—are provided a fair and equal opportunity to develop their full potential.

I go back to what I said when I started this speech. I reflect on watching the Running Rebels basketball team when they were the national champions. There were great players on that

team. As I indicated, six of the players on that team in 1 year were drafted in the first round.

I also reflect with pleasure on watching Lori Harrigan throw a softball and keep the UNLV Rebels softball team in the top 10.

I also reflect on how things have changed since I started practicing law. The legal profession is better now because of the women involved, just as the Senate is a better place because of the women who are here. That is what Title IX is all about.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Nevada for bringing up the issue of women in sports. It has meant a great deal for women and girls to have these opportunities.

The Senator talked about when his wife was in school and all she could do was cheer for the team. I know Mrs. Reid. She and I are about the same age. That was exactly my experience. I am very happy to say my daughter was able to play soccer. I see the young girls today reaching for the stars—and attaining them.

I wonder what the order is at this point in terms of the time division?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time until 4 o'clock is evenly divided for morning business.

Mrs. BOXER. Our time runs out at 3:30?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Ten minutes to each side.

Mr. DORGAN. Reserving the right to object, is it evenly divided on both sides or just 10 minutes per Senator?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Ten minute grants, evenly divided to each side, but no one side has control.

#### DECLINE IN QUALITY OF LIFE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I take to the floor today to call attention to an alarming trend that I see happening in this country. It is a decline in the quality of life for our people in this country. It is beginning. I am concerned it will continue.

Clearly, I am not talking today about the tragedy that hit on 9-11. Of course, that had an impact across the board in terms of worrying about our children and concern for our communities. I am setting that aside. What I really want to talk about is the business of this Government that is keeping our people safe from a couple of things. One is crime in the streets. The other is the quality of our air, our water, our neighborhoods in terms of this environment that we so cherish.

I am very concerned we are beginning to see fallout from policies that are occurring in this administration that has been in power now for 17 months. We first get the alarming news that after 9 years of decline, there is a very large change in the crime rate. We see increases in the murder rate. We learn of increases across the board from reading

the newspaper. We have an expert, Patrick Murphy, who basically worries that we have eliminated the COPS program because this administration does not support it. It has put 100,000 police on the beat. We need to do more. That is having an impact.

Also, we are seeing cuts in aid to States and localities in the criminal justice area. We are seeing these cuts because this administration just does not have that as a priority. They have as a priority cutting taxes for people who earn over \$1 million a year. That is the truth. It costs money to put a policeman on the beat, to protect a neighborhood, a street, a school. If it is more important to give tax breaks to people who do not need it, that is the price we are going to pay. It is beginning to come home to roost.

Another area where we are beginning to see decline is in the quality of life in the environment. We already know this administration is cutting in half the Superfund sites that are going to be cleaned up. I have a chart that shows the number of cleanups we did under the Clinton administration, and the number of cleanups that are now being proposed by the Bush administration.

In the red here, the average number for the last 4 years of the Clinton administration was 86 sites cleaned up each and every year. That means 86 neighborhoods reclaiming an area that was so toxic and polluted there could be no economic development. Those sites were cleaned up.

When the Bush administration came in, they promised they would clean up 75 sites. We were not happy about that—we saw that was a reduction of 10 sites and that would mean 10 communities in trouble, property values declining, quality of life declining, children's health declining, and so on—but listen to what happened. After we adjusted to the fact that we were going to see 11 sites fewer cleaned up, we now see their proposal is to actually go to 47 sites.

They are cutting in half the number of Superfund sites to be cleaned. Why? Because it is not a priority. It is more important to them to give money to people who earn over \$1 million. That is the bottom line. There is not enough money to put cops on the beat, not enough money to clean up these sites. It is a very troubling trend. These communities were counting on these cleanups, and they are not going to happen.

These sites are not isolated. In my own State of California, 40 percent of the people live within 4 miles of a Superfund site. So we are talking about a real problem. But more than that, there are many other problems that we see.

I urge people who may be listening to go to a Web site that we have set up, on our side, to detail the various rollbacks that we are seeing in terms of the environment.

Go to this Web site: [democrats.senate.gov/environment](http://democrats.senate.gov/environment), and, you can see what we are talking about. We

are going to show you the sites that have been abandoned, the rollbacks of this administration because there are so many I cannot fit them on one chart.

I will show two charts that detail the various rollbacks and broken promises of this administration. You can see it is just impossible to take the time because there are 100 rollbacks in clean air, clean water, and safety and health for our people. It causes a lot of concern.

Senator JIM JEFFORDS, who is the chair of the Environment Committee on which I serve, is highly upset about the Superfund situation and highly upset at the fact that there are rollbacks now being proposed on the Clean Air Act.

Madam President, you have two beautiful young children. You know when they breathe dirty air, the impact on their lungs is far greater than when you and I breathe that same air. The bottom line is by rolling back the Clean Air Act, as they plan to do, our children are going to suffer.

We have a situation where the President has now proposed a rollback of the Clean Air Act. Senator JEFFORDS is trying to learn on what they based this decision. He has asked the EPA for information similar to the information I asked them for on the Superfund sites. I want to be able to tell you which of your constituencies are not going to have their Superfund sites cleaned up. I want to be able to tell the same to my Republican colleagues and Democratic colleagues. I cannot get the information. Things have gotten so bad that we have had to ask, at the time, the inspector general to help us get this information on Superfund, and Senator JEFFORDS is going to have to call together our committee and issue a subpoena to get information in terms of the rollback of the Clean Air Act.

Let me sum up this way: I am concerned the priorities of this administration are leaving our people vulnerable, vulnerable to high crime rates, vulnerable to dirty air and dirty water. I think the chickens are coming home to roost. Maybe it is all theoretical, except when you find out it is not somebody else's Superfund site that is not being cleaned up but it is yours.

Let me show you the sites across the country. Every single State except North Dakota has a Superfund site, and the purple reflects the Superfund sites. These are the most toxic, most dangerous sites.

I am here today as the chair of our environmental team. I am proud Senator DASCHLE has appointed me. I have a very good team of Democratic Senators with whom I am working, and I will come to the floor again to bring you up to date on this issue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### VACCINES

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I rise for a few minutes to discuss in morning

business an issue that involves essentially every American today, and that is an issue regarding the shortage of vaccines. Every day, thousands and thousands of parents take their children to physicians' offices all across this great country, not because their children are sick or in response to an acute illness, but because they understand the importance of preventing a potential illness.

They want, and they rightfully expect, their children will be able to receive vaccines needed to prevent illnesses that range from tuberculosis to measles to mumps to rubella to chicken pox. Yet—and I tell this to my colleagues and to people listening across the country—the fact is that many of these parents are being turned away with their children still vulnerable to some of these very destructive and often deadly diseases. Five vaccines that prevent eight childhood diseases have been in short supply in the United States since last summer.

Thankfully, there have been no major outbreaks among American children. We thankfully have been vigilant about vaccinations in this country in recent years, and our population on the whole has built up a strong immunity. But we have a short supply of vaccines today. The longer these vaccine shortages continue, the more vulnerable our children become.

If we do not take prudent steps today in Congress to address these current and recurring vaccine shortages, it is almost certain—from a public health standpoint, from what we know today—that American children will experience an outbreak of diseases that we have the tools, we have the ability, we have the medicines to prevent.

Is it possible to have these destructive diseases appear in this day and time? The answer is yes, and these vaccines that are in short supply today in our country are necessary to prevent such outbreaks that have occurred in other industrialized nations.

If we look at Japan, for example, vaccination rates for whooping cough dropped from the 80-percent rate in 1974, to 10 percent in 1976—from 80 percent to 10 percent over a 2-year period. This caused a dramatic rise in the incidence of the disease from 400 cases and no deaths, to 13,000 cases and 41 deaths within 5 years.

The vaccine for pertussis, which is whooping cough, diphtheria and tetanus is one of the five vaccines in short supply. The others are for tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox and pneumococcal disease, which can lead to pneumonia, bacteremia—that is bacteria floating in your blood that can give you fever and make you ill—and meningitis, which is inflammation of the structures that surround the brain.

These vaccines for our children are in short supply. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the CDC, reports that new supplies of these vaccines will be available soon. That is

good news. Two of the vaccines that are now in short supply will be available later this summer, two more by the end of the year, and the last one in the fall, we believe—maybe a little bit later.

That is welcome news. But the underlying, fundamental problems that have caused the current shortage—and past shortages—if not addressed, will cause another shortage in the future. Vaccine shortages will occur year after year, time after time, if we do not act. Now is the time to address the fundamental problems underlying these shortages.

Today, there are only four manufacturers producing vaccines for America's children. Of those four, only two are American companies. New companies that may want to produce vaccines are confronted with this dual risk of increasing liability and at the same time questionable return on investment. When you put those two together, there are fewer and fewer manufacturers, and that is contributing to this shortage.

The remaining vaccine manufacturers are upgrading and expanding production facilities. Again, that is good news. Even if we have a flood in the supply of vaccines to take care of current shortages, it will be only a matter of time when we have another drought for these lifesaving vaccines. We must address the underlying, fundamental reasons for these recurring vaccine shortages. We have to do that in a thoughtful and comprehensive way based on what we know are the realities in terms of production and usage. It is the job of the Senate to set this framework in place.

In March, I introduced the Improved Vaccine Affordability and Availability Act. This act does a number of things. In essence, it requires the Federal Government to build and maintain a 6-month supply of prioritized vaccines that we and our public health and our medical communities agree are necessary to prevent these preventable diseases.

This would stabilize the supplies over time and help us to be better prepared in those years in which vaccine production cannot meet the demand at that point in time. It would also expand the funding available for State and local efforts to boost immunization rates. You can have the vaccine and know that the vaccine prevents disease, but unless you actually apply that vaccine to our children it is not going to do much good. This increased vaccination effort will focus on adults and children who are underserved or who are at high risk of contracting vaccine-preventable diseases.

Perhaps the most important provisions in this bill are modifications to help restore balance to a program called the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. This program was created about 20 years ago, in the mid-1980s, to rapidly compensate those who suffer serious side effects from vaccines that we recommend, from a public