

and sellers in the firearms and ammunition industry from restrictions on interstate or foreign commerce.

S. 2480

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2480, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to exempt qualified current and former law enforcement officers from state laws prohibiting the carrying of concealed handguns.

S. 2490

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2490, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure the quality of, and access to, skilled nursing facility services under the medicare program.

S. 2569

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2569, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Dorothy Height, in recognition of her many contributions to the Nation.

S. 2667

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2667, a bill to amend the Peace Corps Act to promote global acceptance of the principles of international peace and nonviolent coexistence among peoples of diverse cultures and systems of government, and for other purposes.

S. 2770

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2770, a bill to amend the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Reform Act of 1990 to adjust the percentage differentials payable to Federal law enforcement officers in certain high-cost areas.

S. 3018

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. CARNAHAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance beneficiary access to quality health care services under the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 3054

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3054, a bill to provide for full voting representation in Congress for the citizens of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 46

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 46, a joint resolution to authorize

the use of United States Armed Forces against Iraq.

S. RES. 307

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 307, a resolution reaffirming support of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and anticipating the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987 (the Proxmire Act) on November 4, 2003.

S. CON. RES. 138

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 138, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Health and Human Services should conduct or support research on certain tests to screen for ovarian cancer, and Federal health care programs and group and individual health plans should cover the tests if demonstrated to be effective, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 142

At the request of Mr. SMITH of Oregon, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 142, a concurrent resolution expressing support for the goals and ideas of a day of tribute to all firefighters who have died in the line of duty and recognizing the important mission of the Fallen Firefighters Foundation in assisting family members to overcome the loss of their fallen heroes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS—OCTOBER 3, 2002

By Mrs. CLINTON (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 3045. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide for the protection and enhancement of the environmental integrity and the social and economic benefits of the Finger Lakes Region in the State of New York; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, today, it is an honor to introduce the Finger Lakes Initiative Act of 2002. The Finger Lakes are the heart of New York. They stretch across most of the State and nurture an endless supply of natural and economic resources. They attract visitors from across the country, and they deserve our support to maintain and strengthen the quality of life in the entire region.

The Finger Lakes Region of New York State is a land of rolling hills, beautiful lakes, pastoral farms, and incomparable fish and wildlife resources. A critical environmental resource, the Lakes are also vital to the region's economy, generating a tremendous amount of tourism and commerce.

Fishing, boating, hunting, wineries, farmers markets and the arts attract visitors from around the nation to the Finger Lakes region. The Finger Lakes region also includes some of the Northeast's most productive agricultural lands.

While Central New York is truly blessed with the environmental, economic, and cultural benefits that the Finger Lakes provide, the health of the Finger Lakes can no longer be taken for granted. Recent reports have confirmed what many residents in New York already know, the Finger Lakes are under environmental stress. In many of the lakes, water quality has suffered. Fluctuating water levels and flooding north of the lakes has also increased. In addition, a significant amount of fish and wildlife habitat is being lost and threats are being posed by the introduction of invasive species.

Local, State, and Federal officials have recognized the seriousness of these threats, and have worked to address these concerns. Local stakeholders have joined forces and are working to protect the lakes, developing management plans, implementing best management practices, and doing what they can to protect the resource that is truly their backyard. Yet there is still no comprehensive, regional action plan to address collective environmental protection and economic development goals for the region.

In recent years, Congress has recognized that our Nation's environmental resources are best protected on an ecosystem or watershed basis, with the federal government providing funds and expertise to assist with protection efforts that are shaped by State and local interests. This approach has been taken with great success in Chesapeake Bay, the Great Lakes, the Long Island Sound, and the California Bay Delta, just to name a few.

Just as the Federal Government has supported these national treasures, it is time for the Finger Lakes to be recognized as a region to be protected and enhanced for the economic and environmental benefit of all who live, work, farm, play, and visit the Finger Lakes.

Under the Finger Lakes Initiative Act of 2002, which I am introducing today with Senator SCHUMER, a new program will be established within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect and enhance the environmental integrity and cultural and economic benefits of the Finger Lakes. The Initiative will assist Finger Lakes stakeholders in achieving their goals for the region through technical, scientific, and financial assistance and coordination of relevant Federal programs.

To best serve the interests of the region and build upon the knowledge, expertise, and ongoing efforts of local stakeholders, the legislation establishes an official stakeholder group to aid in developing and implementing

the Initiative. The stakeholder group will be comprised of representatives from local businesses, regional planning agencies, academic institutions, homeowners associations, environmental organizations, agricultural interests, the tourism industry, and tribes, as well as representatives of Federal, State, and local governments.

This stakeholder group will have three years to develop a comprehensive plan to provide for the protection and enhancement of the environmental integrity and the social and economic benefits of the Finger Lakes. The plan will be made available for public review and comment, including a number of public meetings throughout the Finger Lakes region. Once approved by the EPA Administrator, with the concurrence of the Governor, the plan will become the blueprint for federally supported activities in the region.

Furthermore, there will be an interdisciplinary research and education program established as part of the Finger Lakes Initiative, including \$5 million in federal support authorized for a Finger Lakes Institute, such as the Institute that was recently announced at the Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY.

Overall, the bill authorizes \$50 million in federal support over five years for efforts to protect and enhance the environmental, economic and cultural benefits of the Finger Lakes. And to ensure proper involvement and coordination among all federal agencies in addressing the needs and challenges in the Finger Lakes, appropriate financial, technical, and scientific assistance will be provided for the Finger Lakes Initiative by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Economic Development Administration, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

For decades, the Finger Lakes region has held its own in the world. The lakes, the farms, the towns, the wildlife, and the recreational opportunities have all pulled people toward this part of the State. I, myself, was drawn there in August and spent time in Auburn, Seneca Falls, Hammondsport, and Geneva. Seeing the potential of this region, I can just imagine the possibilities when we finally reach out to the Finger Lakes Region—when we finally provide this region with the resources and the attention and the planning it deserves. The possibilities are endless.

There is room in our Nation for another natural wonder, the Finger Lakes Region of New York State.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself
and Mr. BAYH):

S. 3057. A bill to support the establishment or expansion and operation of

programs using a network of public and private community entities to provide mentoring for children in foster care; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, in 1999, several of us, including the late John Chafee and former First Lady, HILLARY CLINTON, took a long hard look at our Nation's foster care system and in particular those whom the system failed. Each year 25,000 young people leave our foster care system without ever finding a permanent family. Too many of these young people have been in this system for the majority of their lives, moved from home to home to home, school to school, with no one to count on or turn to for guidance and no where to call "home."

Studies show that within two to four years of leaving foster care, only half have completed high school, fewer than half are employed, one-fourth have been homeless for at least one night, 30 percent did not have access to needed health care, 60 percent of the young women have given birth, and less than one-in-five are completely self-supporting. In addition, many States report that the overwhelming majority of youth offenders housed in their State prisons were once a part of our Nation's foster care system.

While these statistics are, in and of themselves, disturbing, as author, Ruth Sidel, once said, "statistics are people with the tears wiped away." It is easier for us to think of the almost 600,000 children making their way through our foster care system as numbers, but they are not. They are children. And like every child, they are born with a need to belong, to be loved, to feel protected and sheltered. When we were working on the John Chafee Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, a young woman named Lisa, who had spent her life in foster care explained this concept better than I ever could. She said, "even at 21, I dream about having someone to call when I am not sure whether you wash whites in warm or cold water, someone to tell me that they are proud that I got an A on my Biology test, and most importantly someone who will love me no matter what. Other kids have that and they are lucky."

One of my goals as United States Senator is to change our foster care system so children like Lisa do not fall through it's cracks. When you stop and think about it, there is no such thing as a foster care "system", its just people, and these children do not fall through "cracks", they fall through our fingers. I, for one, intend to do what I can to ensure that each and every child in the world goes to bed at night blanketed with the security that only a family of their own can provide. The legislation that I am here to introduce today by no means solves the many problems facing our kids in care, but it will go a long way toward ensuring that they do not fall through our fingers.

The Foster Care Mentoring Act of 2002 authorizes \$15 million a year to be used by States to create a statewide foster care mentor program that aims to match a trained, responsible adult with each and every child in care. Last week, I had the chance to sit down with an organization, Children Uniting Nations and the First Lady of California, Sharon Davis, and they shared with me the enormous success they have had in California with a program like this. The mentors provide friendship, guidance, academic tutoring and most importantly consistency to children who are in desperate need of such things. In addition, this legislation provides Federal student loan forgiveness for each mentor that contributes at least 200 hours a year to a child in need.

Although a mentor can never take the place of a permanent family, they can make sure these children do not get lost in a system designed to protect them. Mentors can give these children the tools they need to survive and help guide and protect them as they wait for the permanent home they need and deserve. I hope that my colleagues will join me in support of this legislation.

Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of legislation I have been working on with Senator LANDRIEU to ensure our foster care youth are provided every opportunity to develop into bright, capable adults and become productive and valuable members of our society. The Foster Care Mentoring Act will help provide a foster care child with a role model, tutor and friend.

Although there are several concerns with the administration of our child welfare system, this bill is one way we can immediately provide necessary relief and guidance to children who have been the victims of abuse and neglect. This legislation takes a necessary step toward providing these children with a healthy stable environment. There are over half a million children in the nation's foster care system, 7,482 children in Indiana alone. As the guardian of these children, the government should take all possible steps to help them overcome their barriers.

As a result of the abuse foster care children have experienced, they are less likely to trust adults, create healthy relationships, and perform academically. Mentors will help them establish trusting relationships, assist them with their school work, and develop emotionally. Mentors will remind foster care youth that they are wanted members of our society who deserve every opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Mentors have proven to have positive impacts on the youth they mentor. Children that have mentors have better relationships with adults, fewer disciplinary referrals, and more confidence to achieve their goals. Research shows that caring adults can make a difference in children's lives: 46 percent of mentored teens are less likely to use drugs; 59 percent of mentored