

leader for their work and hope we can complete our work as a result of their contribution in the next couple of days.

We could have a very productive week. As the majority leader has indicated, there are other bills that could be addressed, as well. We have made a lot of progress and I hope we continue to do so.

I yield the floor.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this month is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It was launched over 20 years ago by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. In 1989, the first Domestic Violence Awareness Month commemorative legislation was passed by the Congress. It has been passed every year since 1989.

We have come a long way in understanding the causes of domestic violence. Most importantly, we understand now that spousal battery is not a mere private matter, something that happens behind closed doors. Domestic violence is a crime. It devastates lives, rips apart families, and affects every aspect of community life. Its victims deserve our best efforts to prevent and prosecute family violence as we would any other violent crime.

Battery is a pattern of fear and intimidation to establish power and control over another person. It is wrong. Battering happens when one person believes they are entitled to control another. Acts of domestic violence include physical assault, sexual abuse, and psychological cruelty. It often escalates from insults and verbal jabs to physical harm.

Fortunately, the work done by many courageous and committed individuals, including community leaders and churches and police departments, family courts, shelters, and advocates, have made a difference. The Department of Justice reports that the number of female victims of intimate violence declined through the 1990s. The number of male victims of intimate violence also went down over this period.

As a society, we are much more aware of the danger signs and of our responsibility to respond and to intervene and to act. We are also more aware of our responsibility as moms and dads and husbands and wives to teach our children by example the value of compassion and respect.

I commend those dedicated to keeping this in the public's consciousness. I urge my colleagues to join in the effort to raise the public's awareness. We have come a long way, but there is still more to do.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE. Senator BIDEN has long been a champion in bringing domestic violence to the forefront of the national agenda. He was a leader in the bipartisan effort to pass the Violence Against Women Act, and I worked with him last year to ensure the independ-

ence of the Office on Violence Against Women at the Department of Justice.

The Violence Against Women Act made a statement in law that fighting domestic violence is not just sound family policy, it is a moral imperative. It made a statement that domestic violence is not the shameful secret of a select few families, it is an issue with immense repercussions for all of us. Most importantly, it made a statement that as a country, a society, and a national family, we can do something about domestic violence.

As a direct result of the Violence Against Women Act our Nation has made significant strides in the fight against domestic violence. There are more domestic abuse hotlines and more shelters today than there were 10 years ago. There are more doctors, nurses, therapists, teachers, police officers, judges and other community leaders today who recognize the signs of domestic violence, and know how to help when they see those signs.

VAWA has also provided financial means to Native American communities and tribes to combat domestic violence. Before 1994, domestic violence and sexual assault services and resources were rare in Indian Country. VAWA has enabled Native communities to provide safe locations, counseling services, and technical assistance and training, and it has given these communities the flexibility to tailor those services to the unique needs of Indian people.

In addition, just last Wednesday, the Senate passed a VAWA STOP grant technical fix that would allow for a direct Federal tribal coalition relationship. This fix provides an important clarification to ensure that tribal domestic violence and sexual assault programs have a direct link with the Department of Justice underscoring the unique Federal-tribal relationship.

In South Dakota, in Rapid City and on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, a non-profit organization known as Cangleska is helping to break the cycle of violence by providing domestic violence prevention and intervention advocacy and services. Cangleska works with organizations like Sacred Circle that serve as a vital national resource for Native women, and I am proud to have it based in South Dakota.

There are similar organizations doing good work in communities all across America, Native and non-Native, rich and poor. We have made progress. But there is much more to be done.

Each year, more than 1 million women in America are victims of domestic violence, and more than 3 million American children witness domestic violence. Protecting the victims of domestic violence is essential, but it is not enough. Domestic violence does not just destroy families, it cascades through generations. Children who get abused or witness abuse are more likely to become parents who abuse.

Next year, when Congress re-authorizes the Violence Against Women Act,

in addition to taking further steps to prevent domestic violence, we need to do more to help the children who witness it. This is the only way to begin to break the cycle of domestic violence.

This month, we acknowledge the strength and bravery of the victims and survivors of domestic violence, and we rededicate ourselves to raising awareness about and confronting this deeply disturbing issue.

Let us also vow to do even more in the months ahead to create a country and a climate where home is a refuge, and domestic violence a thing of the past.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today on the Senate floor we are recognizing the month of October as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

For far too long, we have been reluctant to talk openly about family violence. When I was growing up, few viewed violence in the home as a crime. As a young deputy sheriff, I learned that people thought of it as a private matter.

Today, we know that domestic violence is not a private family matter, it is a serious crime.

And for far too long, domestic violence has been seen as a problem which impacts only women, but this is not true either. Domestic violence is not just a woman's issue. It impacts the entire American family.

Domestic violence damages children. The seeds of violence are planted early. We know that children are harmed both emotionally and developmentally when they witness or experience violence.

Violence is a learned behavior. So, the cycle of domestic abuse continues generation after generation.

Domestic violence also threatens the security and peace of entire communities. The impacts of abuse are felt by the families, friends and co-workers of victims. They are felt by law enforcement officials, medical workers and other social service workers who are called upon to repair the lives shattered by violence.

Now, there are advocacy groups, support groups, 24-hour-crisis hotlines, and housing assistance.

And, today there is a network of almost 1800 domestic violence programs in the United States. Approximately 1,200 of these include shelter. Now, most shelters include facilities for the children, too.

Understanding first-hand the impact of family violence, I have made anti-violence and domestic violence legislation a top priority throughout my years in Congress.

A year ago, during the month of October, the Stamp Out Family Violence Stamp was issued. The stamp, similar to the Breast Cancer Stamp, earns monies for domestic violence shelters throughout the country, with special emphasis on programs for children who witness domestic violence. By the end of July this year, the stamp had netted \$1.2 million for shelter programs.

But there is more to be done. Domestic violence can be prevented. Around the country there is innovative and exciting work taking place to help reduce family violence. While we must continue our efforts to provide help and shelter for victims, we must also step up our efforts in providing helps that will prevent violence.

Many believe that enacting broader Federal laws is the answer to this problem. But, I believe that adding more rules on the books without the ability to enforce them is a hollow and incomplete gesture.

We must all speak out on this issue. Victims must speak up and ask for help. Local, State and national authorities must speak up. And, communities must recognize the pervasive effects of violence on all aspects of community life. I believe that by combining education, research, and community-based efforts, we can create reasonable, multi-faceted solutions to a problem that has no boundaries and knows no laws.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today with my colleague, Senator KYL, I commemorate Domestic Violence Awareness Month and pay tribute to the millions of victims of domestic violence in the United States: both those who daily face fear and pain at the hands of the ones they love, and those who have had the courage to seek help.

Domestic violence causes far more pain than the visible marks of bruises and scars. It is devastating to be abused by someone that you love and think loves you in return. It is estimated that approximately 3 million incidents of domestic violence are reported each year in the United States. Tragically, domestic violence remains a pervasive threat to the fabric of America's families and the well-being of America's future.

Around the world, one out of three women is abused by their domestic partner or another member of their family. This means that each of us probably knows at least one victim of domestic abuse.

It is primarily a crime against women, who account for approximately 85 percent of domestic abuse victims each year. Indeed, nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives, and each year as many as 324,000 women experience domestic violence during their pregnancy. It is truly heartbreaking to hear these victims' stories and to know that so many women and even some men face this pain on a regular basis.

Domestic violence does not only happen to adults. Forty percent of girls age 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend, and approximately one in five female high school students reports being physically and/or sexually abused by a dating partner. And these are only the cases that are reported.

Additionally, many children are caught in the middle, witnessing abuse

or being abused themselves. Domestic violence is witnessed by between 3.3 and 10 million children every year. And, studies show that half of all men who frequently assault their wives also frequently abuse their children. The emotional impact of this abuse during childhood can have a devastating effect on the rest of a person's life.

Domestic abuse creates a cycle of violence. Children who are abused or witness abuse are at a higher risk of abusing their own family and significant others as an adult as well as long-term physical and mental health problems, including alcohol and substance abuse. It is evident that these abuse victims follow the example they learned in childhood and continue the cycle of violence when they are adults.

Statistics can show the wide scope of domestic violence, but numbers cannot demonstrate how frightening domestic violence is to a victim. I have read stories of many victims, both men and women, whose lives are changed forever by the fear and pain they feel as a result of their partner's violent behavior.

Let me talk about just one story I read recently. At first glance, Pam Butler appeared to have the perfect life. She grew up in a stable, loving family in Palo Alto, CA. That stability was shattered when she met Michael Braga.

Michael Braga was a charismatic but troubled man who quickly romanced Pam Butler. He began to control every aspect of her life: limiting her contact with friends and family, controlling her money and living space and chipping away at her self-confidence. This behavior quickly escalated into violence. Pam was beaten unconscious on several occasions. She painfully learned to hide the signs of the beatings because she was ashamed to be in such a horrible situation.

After several beatings caused re-injury to an old skull fracture, Pam Butler realized that staying in the relationship could kill her. She enlisted the help of Santa Clara County Assistant District Attorney Joyce Allegro.

I am pleased to report that Mr. Braga was arrested and prosecuted. Following his trial, he was sentenced to 12 years in prison, one of the longest sentences for domestic violence passed down in California history.

As a result of her experiences with domestic violence, Pam Butler has devoted many hours to assisting other victims. She is the Domestic Violence Victim Advocate for the County of Santa Clara's Social Services Agency. She has also spoken about domestic violence across the United States. Her story is an inspiration to every person who has been a victim of domestic violence.

Another heartbreaking story is that of Michele, a Chicago woman who had been abused just as her mother and grandmother had before her. Michele's father hit and insulted her throughout her upbringing. Unfortunately, Michele

was not able to break the cycle of violence and fell into the same trap as her mother and grandmother.

Her first husband beat her, cheated on her, called her insulting names and controlled her ability to come and go from her house. Although she was well-read and bright, Michele did not believe she had the ability to escape this horrible situation.

Ultimately, her husband left her and her children, and she continued the cycle of violence with other abusive men. Eventually, she and her children found themselves homeless. Only then did she realize that she could get help. Michele now encourages other victims to seek help and speak out against domestic violence.

It is vital that we act to stop the cycle of domestic violence. To this end, last April the Senate passed the Victims' Rights Act by a vote of 96 to 1. I am proud to have been a long-time supporter and cosponsor of this important legislation. The act amends the federal criminal code to expand the rights of victims, especially the protection of victims of domestic violence, during the course of an alleged offender's trial and imprisonment.

This is landmark legislation in its ability to ensure the rights of all victims, but it is especially important for victims of domestic abuse. The Victims' Rights Act assures victims the right to be reasonably protected from the accused. It guarantees the right to reasonable, accurate and timely notice of any public proceeding involving the crime, as well as any release or escape of the accused offender. And it protects the victim's right to be treated with fairness and with respect for his or her dignity and privacy.

The Victims' Rights Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation that I have had the privilege of supporting during my 12 years in the Senate. It is currently before the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, and I strongly encourage the House to take it up soon.

In closing, I am grateful for the opportunity to honor the victims of domestic violence and to call for an end to the cycle of violence. It is my sincere hope that we will all know peace and security in our own homes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I join the majority leader and others who I understand will come to the floor to call attention to the need for recognition of the problems of domestic violence. October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. As the majority leader noted, last week we passed a resolution supporting the efforts to address more effectively domestic violence in this country.

This is an important issue, a very troubling issue to people all over this country. We have been lax in recognizing the depth and the breadth of the problem within our country. In South

Dakota and across the land, new efforts are being made to address the need for greater awareness, the need for greater education, the need for greater prevention, the need for greater response. And it is only if we as Senate leadership ensure that the people of this country recognize the importance of making this a higher priority will those needs be addressed throughout the Nation.

So I commend those who are taking the floor this morning to once again draw attention to these needs, draw attention to our need to respond, and to draw attention to the important priority it ought to have as we consider public policy.

ONGOING JOB CRISIS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, 18 months ago, a group of 450 economists, including 10 Nobel laureates, made it clear that because the White House put the narrow interests of a few ahead of our Nation's economy, its jobs plan would fail. It would fail to create jobs, it would fail to lift wages, and it would fail to bring down our deficit.

The warning was clear. Now the record is undeniable. In the last 3 years, we have lost 1.6 million private sector jobs. The last time the economy took this long to replace jobs lost in a recession was the Great Depression. Mr. President, 2.7 million manufacturing jobs have been lost, and many sent overseas on a one-way ticket. Unemployment has increased 40 percent, and today 8 million Americans are out of work. And 1.7 million have been out of work for 6 months or longer.

That is horrible news for a couple that is hoping to retire, a family that is trying to put a child through college, or anyone who has been living from paycheck to paycheck.

But this situation touches all Americans, including those who have jobs today. That is because the weakness in the job market has undermined wage and salary growth. Real household income has dropped 3.4 percent since 2001. Adding to the squeeze, college tuition is up, gas prices have risen to all-time highs, and the cost of health care has risen by 45 percent since 2001.

Middle-class families are beginning to believe that the deck is stacked against them, and for good reason. The CBO recently confirmed what many of us have been saying for the past few years: The President's economic plan rewards wealth and punishes work by shifting the tax burden onto the shoulders of middle-class families. Even with middle-class families bearing more than their fair share of the tax burden, the country is looking at years and years of record deficits and debt.

This past weekend, I traveled around South Dakota, meeting with people and going door to door. More than any time in my memory, people tell me they need two or three jobs—not to get ahead, not to save for a house or their child's education, but simply to make their monthly bills. Many good manu-

facturing jobs have left the State, and it is getting more difficult to find full-time jobs that pay a wage good enough to raise a family.

Recently, I received a letter from a young woman in Lake Andes. She has done everything right. She went to college, got a master's degree, and got advanced skills that could help move our economy forward. But because there are so few good jobs, she has been out of work now for months. Just to get by, she has applied for lower skilled work. But often she is passed over for those jobs because employers worry that she is overqualified. What does it say about our economy that someone with real skills, willing to work hard, cannot get a job?

Out in our small towns and farming and ranching communities, the story can even get worse. I have been visiting these communities for more than 25 years. There is nothing more gratifying to me than to see a family farmer or rancher raise their children, teach them how to farm, and then pass their land down to them. That is why we led the fight to create an exemption in the estate tax to allow families to pass from one generation to the next the farms they have lived on for generations before. But too many family farms are getting swallowed up.

More often, children are forced to leave the communities they know and the families they love to find work in other places. They don't want to leave, but they cannot find work good enough to allow them to raise a family. So the way of life their families have enjoyed for generations is being lost. These families have been struggling for years, watching all they have worked for slip away from them. Yet when they look to Washington, they do not see their Government fighting for them, or even hearing them at times. The administration continues to say the economy has turned a corner. When these families look ahead, they don't see a corner, they see a cliff, and they are worried they are going to fall off.

Americans do not want to wait until after the election to do something. They need help now. I am glad we extended the middle-class tax cuts. Middle-class families need relief. Previous tax cuts were unfairly skewed to the very wealthiest of Americans. This was the right thing to do. It will probably help those people who are struggling, but there is much more that we need to do.

First, we need to pass a real jobs bill, one that puts top priority on creating jobs at home, closes corporate tax loopholes, and ends the incentives that encourage companies to ship American jobs overseas.

Second, we need to extend the unemployment benefits. Every week, another 85,000 Americans exhaust their unemployment benefits. They should not be punished because the economic policies that are in place have created the longest jobs slump since the Great Depression.

Third, it is time to raise the minimum wage. Today, the minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour, and it is worth less than \$3 when using 1968 wage indicators. Americans who work at the minimum wage for 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, still fall \$5,000 short of the poverty line. No American who works full time, 52 weeks a year, should live in poverty. In the time we have left this year, we should increase the minimum wage to \$7. It will not lift every working family out of poverty, but it will move millions of minimum wage workers closer to the life of security and dignity they deserve.

Fourth, we need to pass a Transportation bill that would provide needed infrastructure improvements across the Nation.

Fifth, we need to help workers whose jobs have been outsourced overseas to get back on their feet.

Finally, we need to pass the renewable fuels standard. In South Dakota alone, a renewable fuels standard would create 10,000 jobs and revitalize the rural economy. By reducing reliance on foreign oil, families would be less vulnerable to high energy costs.

It looks as though this Congress will end having failed to take strong action on behalf of American working families. Unfortunately, the leadership has stood in the way of commonsense proposals that would create jobs and improve the lives of working people.

Republican opposition to legislation designed to create jobs and help workers would be troubling at any time, but considered together, at a time when working families continue to feel the effects of a 3-year-long jobs slump, their stubborn opposition demonstrates a troubling indifference to the needs of American middle-class families.

Americans still dream of a better life. They still dream of a better future for themselves and their families. We have a responsibility to give Americans a chance to make that dream real. But it is time we tell Americans who are struggling that help is on the way. We are not helpless. We can create jobs, lift wages, and stop the outsourcing of the American workplace. All it takes is leadership.

Americans have been looking to Congress to provide the new direction of economic leadership they need. We have 1 more week before the Senate recesses. The American people are demanding action, and we have an obligation to deliver it.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Will the Senator allow me to make an announcement?

Mr. REID. Yes.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved that has not been used.