

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.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for 30 minutes, with the first half under the control of the majority leader and the second half under the control of the Democratic leader.

The Senator from Arizona.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, there are a lot of problems that affect people around the world and in this country. Some go unmentioned and yet affect millions of lives and are with us every day. One of those problems is the problem of domestic violence.

I was so pleased that both the majority leader and the Democratic leader, this morning, began their official presentations in the Senate talking about the problem of domestic violence and the fact that the Senate, last week, unanimously passed a resolution which supports "the goals and ideals of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month," which is this month of October, and expresses "the sense of the Senate that Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families."

Our message in passing this resolution is aimed both at a national audience as well as every individual who is a victim of domestic violence or who knows one. Their message is not a moment of silence, as is frequently the case but, rather, the message is: "It's time to talk." And all around the country—indeed, the world—this message is being conveyed today and for the remainder of this month.

I want to thank Marie Claire magazine, for example, and organizations that are promoting this theme: "It's time to talk." And why is that important? Because as almost anyone who understands the problem of domestic violence knows, the biggest reason the problem remains with us is that it is kept a secret.

People are ashamed or afraid to talk, to begin the conversation that would confront and, therefore, solve the problem. That is why "It's time to talk" is so important. It is not just the victims who should talk, it is society as a whole.

As the resolution states:

There is a need to increase the public awareness about and understanding of domestic violence and the needs of battered women and their children.

It is hard to convey the sense of this problem talking statistics, but I think it is important that we understand the magnitude of the problem, not in terms of human suffering with individual stories but to understand the statistics of how serious the problem is. We have made progress to be sure, but it is still a very serious problem.

An average of more than three women are murdered by their husbands

or boyfriends in the United States every day, and someone in the United States is sexually assaulted every 2 minutes each year. Each year, about 342,000 pregnant women in the United States are battered by the men in their lives, leading to pregnancy complications, including low weight gain, anemia, infections, and many others. In 2002 alone, 250,000 women and girls older than the age of 12 were raped or sexually assaulted, a quarter of a million women. One out of every 12 women has been stalked in her lifetime.

It is an issue not only for today's generation but for children because nearly 9 million witness domestic violence every day. This obviously creates a risk factor in their lives for having long-term physical and mental health problems, including substance abuse, being a victim of abuse, and becoming a perpetrator of abuse. A boy who witnesses his father's domestic violence is 10 times more likely to engage in domestic violence than a boy from a non-violent home. Forty percent of girls ages 14 to 17 report knowing someone their age who has been hit or beaten by a boyfriend. One in five adolescent girls in the United States becomes a victim of physical or sexual abuse or both in a dating relationship.

The cost is devastating. The real cost is the emotional and psychological harm that occurs to victims of domestic violence and to their families. But there is also a staggering cost to society. As we noted in the resolution adopted in the Senate, the cost of domestic violence, including rape, physical assault, and stalking, exceeds \$5.8 billion each year, of which \$4.1 billion is spent on direct medical and mental health care services.

The problem exists in my State of Arizona. Just to cite a couple statistics: 81 of the 440 homicides reported in Arizona in the year 2003 were a result of domestic and/or dating violence; this year, as of September 8, there were 61 domestic violence-related deaths reported; in the year 2002, every 5 minutes police responded to a call involving domestic violence; every 19 minutes an arrest was made as a result of a domestic violence incident; and every 36 minutes police were called to the scene of domestic violence where children were present. In that same year, 91 law enforcement agencies in Arizona reported a total of over 112,000 calls to service for domestic violence. Of those calls, there were a total of 26,000 arrests made.

I conclude by acknowledging the dedication of all the people tirelessly working behind the scenes to try to end domestic violence and to deal with the crisis of strengthening the survivors of domestic violence.

I have toured centers in Arizona—for example, city centers against family violence in Mesa, Glendale, and Scottsdale, all leading the way. We have raised money and dedicated sites for the Autumn House Domestic Violence Shelter, Chrysalis Shelter, the Center

Against Sexual Abuse, ChildHelp USA, and the Sexual Assault Recovery Institute, and many others. I thank all of them for their efforts in trying to deal with this important crisis.

I also thank those of my colleagues who have been involved in this effort: my colleague DIANNE FEINSTEIN, who has worked so tirelessly in this effort in trying to provide help for victims of crime, for example; Senator BIDEN, who was one of the authors of the resolution about which I spoke earlier. There are others who will come to the floor of the Senate throughout the morning either to provide statements or to deliver them here noting the nature of the problem.

It is fitting that this month is designated as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It is fitting that our resolution passed in the Senate notes that we should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its devastating effects on families, as I said in the beginning. In order to solve this problem, we have to begin by acknowledging it and confronting it. It is indeed time to talk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

WAR ON TERROR AND THE ECONOMY

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the situation in the war on terror. I listened to the debate last night, and I heard the candidate from the other side of the aisle talk about what a mess things were, how terrible everything was, how terrible things are in Afghanistan. Afghanistan is on the verge of having elections. Ten million Afghans have registered to vote in spite of threats.

The Vice President made a compelling case talking about El Salvador. People thought that democracy would never flourish. Yet because of the desire for democracy and the opportunity to vote, we have seen matters turn around.

I had the opportunity to be with the President of El Salvador and the Presidents of other Central American countries at a breakfast. We have democracy in Central America. The lure of democracy is so powerful.

I was listening to the distinguished minority leader, and he made references to the Great Depression, references to the economic situation today in analogy to the Great Depression.

The President has made it clear: As long as any American does not have employment, we have to do better. But the reality is so far from the Great Depression. Some people must walk around and see us surrounded in darkness. In 1996, when Bill Clinton was running for reelection, the January to August average unemployment at this time, where we stand today, was 5.5 percent. It is 5.6 percent today. The unemployment rate for African Americans during that same period, the first-