

and asked that I write to each of his family members in an effort to show them how grateful he is for their love and support over the last 26 year. He writes.

My family is fantastic, personal bias aside. Throughout my entire time in the military, they have always been there to support me and provide that emotional stability during deployments in both peace and crisis. Everything that I have accomplished in the military and in life can be attributed to the upbringing, love, and support by my parents coupled with the love and support from my brothers and sister. I am truly blessed to have such a wonderful family . . .

Our country is blessed to have you, too, Andrew and Shirley Lucas; Ernest and Carole Lucas; Lieutenant Colonel John and Coleen, John Jr., Kevin, Bryan, and Andrea Lucas; Jim and Cathy, Linden and Weston Spalding; Thomas and Sara, Darcy and Will Lucas; and April Kulda-Lucas and Christopher Drew, LTC Lucas' wife and son. It is extremely hard on our men and women in uniform to deal with the ups and downs of military life, but it is family members like you that help them through it, which is why I am happy to honor LTC Lucas' request and say thank you for your service to our country.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 5149

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed yet another short-term extension of the 1996 welfare law. This marks the eighth temporary extension—and the third year we have been unable to improve this program that serves millions of needy families. I rise today to express my disappointment that improving this legislation has not been realized because of efforts by some of my colleagues to undermine the principles and goals of reform.

I think we can all agree that welfare reform has been one of the most successful social policy reforms in U.S. history. The 1996 welfare reform legislation made remarkable headway in helping welfare dependents move toward self-sufficiency. It dramatically reduced State welfare caseloads, reduced child poverty, and increased employment. But there is still room for improvement.

It is a misfortune that we had to pass yet another short-term extension that doesn't give States the certainty they need to best plan for the future. We passed this welfare extension because we had to—it bought us another 6 months in the hopes that we can finally act on a broader welfare reform bill in the 109th Congress.

We want more welfare recipients to prepare for work, which is the true path off welfare. We want to help more parents marry or stay married, which helps them and helps their children. We want to help more parents get ready for full-time work, which is what it takes to lift families out of poverty.

We want to provide more child care, so more parents can go to work knowing their children are cared for and safe.

In 2003, I worked tirelessly with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to produce a comprehensive welfare reform bill that enjoyed substantial Democratic support. Many of the provisions in the bill we should have passed in March reflected the provisions in the 2003 bill. This further underscores my frustration with the Senate Democrats' failure to support a comprehensive reauthorization bill, and in effect, force both bodies to fund welfare programs through a series of short-term extensions, without any further improvements.

Welfare reform has saved taxpayers money, but it has not been free. It will not be free in the future. The welfare reform bill we tried to pass 6 months ago included meaningful reforms and resources needed to help more low-income parents go to work. We understand that parents need to know they have access to quality child care, and the bill included an additional \$6 billion—for a total of \$7 billion—in child care funding to support the efforts of working families who need help with this essential assistance.

I have seen in my home State of Utah, that many of these parents, hardworking people, young and old, end up finding great self-satisfaction in giving their gift of skill at work, at giving themselves to a task at hand so thoroughly, that they have a meaningful relationship with their work. I think we will all agree that sometimes it isn't easy to dive into your work with enthusiasm. But sometimes this is necessary and appropriate. That is why I would like to talk a little bit about its importance, that work requirements are increased.

The increased work requirements in H.R. 4 would have changed the core work requirement from 20 hours per week to 24 hours per week. Total hours required for a state to receive full credit would have increased from 30 hours per week to 34 hours per week for single-parent families. Now these are sensible, reasonable requirements. Two-parent families would have been required to work 39 hours per week, or 55 hours per week if they received subsidized child care. States would have received partial credit if individuals worked 20 hours per week, and extra credit if they worked more than 34 hours per week. Current law provides full credit only at 30 hours.

Again, I think these modifications could have made real progress. The more a person sets goals and takes responsibility for the career they want, they will better be able to decide if a particular job fits into the scheme of their life. The harder you work, that is the more hours you work, the more you understand why you're working at a particular job and how your hard work is going to benefit you.

Another important provision in H.R. 4 was the establishment of a meaning-

ful State participation rate. For years now, States have had no real Federal requirements to actively recruit adults into industrious work and work related activities. Under H.R. 4, States would have been required to have 70 percent of their caseload involved in approved work activities by 2008. It is important to know that most States currently have less than 50 percent of their caseloads in approved, full-time, work-related activities. Several states are below 25 percent. Requirements would oblige States to significantly ramp up their efforts to engage a much greater number of families in activities that count toward the work participation rate.

Right now, the majority of adults receiving assistance are reporting zero hours of activity. I think it is time we recognize that an effective participation rate, and by the elimination of the caseload reduction credit in the 1996 welfare law, we will encourage people to commit, to careers, to goals, to real recovery. Just half-heartedly trying will not enable a person to succeed, but committing yourself will.

For the sake of the millions of families that remain in the welfare system, we should have been able to come to a final agreement that would have helped Americans achieve independence and a brighter future.

Again, I am very frustrated that we have caved to the passage of another short-term placeholder extension. Unfortunately, the remarkable improvements included in H.R. 4 will remain on hold while we continue to kick the ball down the field.

As time passes, budget pressures will only squeeze tighter and tighter. The additional help we could have offered will become only harder to come by.

WORLD FOOD DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to join people from more than 150 nations in celebrating October 16 as World Food Day.

World Food Day brings much-needed attention to hunger and malnutrition around the world. Inadequate nutrition is an unrelenting global health threat. Over 840 million people in the world are hungry, including more than 300 million children.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has worked for 59 years to help both developed and developing nations create their own sustainable food supply.

Because of the organization's achievements, many people who did not know where their next meal would come from can now live healthy and productive lives. Workers from the Food and Agriculture Organization have assisted farmers in Swaziland with growing new crops to combat problems of hypertension and sugar diabetes. They have offered alternatives to more than 2000 poor coca farmers in Bolivia, helping to curb the production of cocaine. Recently, the organization

approved \$400,000 in emergency relief funding for Caribbean countries devastated by this year's hurricanes.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is not alone in its effort to fight hunger. Last month, the Senate Hunger Caucus, which I cochair with Senators DOLE, LINCOLN, and SMITH, met with Ambassador George McGovern and the Executive Director of the United Nations World Food Program, Jim Morris, to discuss international hunger. We know it is possible to feed the hungry and improve the lives of millions of impoverished people around the globe. An additional \$13 billion each year, for instance, could meet the most basic health and nutritional needs of the world's poorest people. It is a modest amount compared to the 25,000 lives lost to hunger each day.

Several years ago, Ambassador McGovern and the former Senator Bob Dole called for an international school feeding program. They recognized that we can fight hunger among children in the world's poorest countries while also sending them to school. This idea, which became the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education Program, is one of the single best policy ideas I have ever heard. We know that poor children and families often do not have enough food to eat. We also know that poor children are less likely to go to school. But, by providing food as an incentive to attend school, we are able to provide fuel for the bodies and minds of these children.

I am pleased that the Senate Appropriations Committee accepted my request to increase funding for the McGovern-Dole program to \$100 million in the fiscal year 2005 Agriculture Appropriations bill. It is a simple step toward ending an epidemic that leaves children with bloated stomachs, emaciated faces, and underdeveloped minds—an image that I will never forget after seeing the devastation first hand in some of these developing nations.

As we celebrate World Food Day and the progress of the Food and Agriculture Organization and other groups on the front lines in the battle against hunger, let us remember the substantial work that remains. I hope this day will spur us on to achieve the vision of a time when abundant food is available to every human being. I look forward to working with other members of the Senate Hunger Caucus toward that goal.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month and as an Alaskan, I welcome this opportunity to discuss a problem my State has been combating for decades.

In 2002, more women per capita were killed by men they knew in Alaska than in any other State. During the last 5 years, over 18,000 domestic violence charges have been filed in Alas-

ka, and this statistic does not include incidences where a woman decided not to press charges. Since 1976, Alaska has ranked in the top five States for the highest rate of rape per 100,000 total inhabitants.

The epidemic domestic violence and sexual assault rates in Alaska constitute a serious public crisis and our State is dedicated to finding solutions for this problem. In the spirit of that commitment, I helped organize a summit with the Department of Justice to discuss the unique challenges that Alaska faces. The summit provided a forum for law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, governmental entities, health personnel and advocates to come together to openly discuss the multiple issues associated with this crisis. The summit covered a wide range of topics, including the role of responders to domestic violence, the best practices to implement in communities and the identification of training needs.

The summit gave different entities the opportunity to convene, collaborate, and openly discuss solutions that will help us prevent domestic violence and sexual assault. The summit was a solid first step in an ongoing effort in our State.

There are no simple solutions to the problem of domestic violence, but we do know that education and programs that take a proactive approach can help turn the tide on this issue. This year I secured several earmarks in the CJS appropriations bill in response to the domestic violence problem that Alaska is facing. Funds will be provided to the State of Alaska for a sexual assault/domestic violence prosecution unit. Funds will also be available for a new domestic violence prevention project to allow for a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of domestic violence cases. Money was also attained to offer services to victims whose lives have been impacted by violent crime.

Addressing the public crisis posed by domestic violence and sexual assault is a two-front effort. On one front, we are working to meet the immediate needs of the victims of these crimes, ensuring they have the resources they need to recover. On the other, we are working on the long term goals of raising awareness and educating the public. Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a vital part of that effort.

In many cases, victims of domestic violence wrongly believe they are responsible for what has happened to them. We must work to alter the social stigma associated with being a victim of domestic violence. That stigma belongs to those who commit crimes, not their victims. By taking care of victims, prosecuting offenders, and educating the public about this issue, I believe we can begin to end a serious problem that has plagued our communities and our citizens for far too long. Many of my colleagues have pledged their support in this effort, and I look

forward to working with them on additional solutions to address this problem.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President I rise today to mark the beginning of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, NDVAM and to acknowledge the tenth anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA. NDVAM began in 1987 as a way to draw attention to the problem domestic violence. Seventeen years later, domestic violence is still a blight in our communities. As such, we must do what we can to combat domestic violence. A timely reauthorization of VAWA is a critical step in this effort.

Ratified in 1994 as title IV of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, VAWA established protocol and discretionary grant programs that are managed by the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services. As indicated by Congressional Research Service reports, grants administered by DOJ aid law enforcement, establish and operate training programs for victim advocates and counselors, and train probation and parole officers who work with released sex offenders. Grants provided by the HHS fund shelters for battered women, rape prevention programs, and community programs on domestic violence. Grants also provide funding for efforts to reduce sexual abuse of runaway and homeless street youth.

VAWA also finances and annually publishes a series of reports on the methods of assessing and preventing gender-related crimes. The findings of these studies are used to develop existing programs and create new ones in areas that require more attention. As a result, VAWA's efforts have initiated critical changes in Federal laws regarding interstate stalking, intrastate domestic abuse, the rules of evidence concerning the use of a victim's past sexual behavior, and HIV testing in rape cases.

Additionally, VAWA instituted a pilot program for safe custody exchange for families of domestic violence, as well as a domestic violence task force. These initiatives greatly enhance the enforcement of protective orders across state lines. Without VAWA's assistance, battered women who relocate to other states would be extremely vulnerable, as would these States' resources.

Despite the enormous strides the VAWA has made for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, Native American women still experience the highest rate of violence of any group in the United States. This is of particular concern to the Lakota, Nakota, and Dakota tribes located in my home State of South Dakota. A Department of Justice report titled, "American Indians and Crime," found that Native American women suffer from violent crime at a rate three and a half times greater than the national average. Researchers also estimate that this number is actually much