

and counties may use their own funds to provide critical preventative health care services to immigrants.

NACo is the only national organization representing county governments. Many of our country's 3066 counties own and operate hospitals and other health care facilities. Without the passage of this amendment, county governments are placed in a precarious position if they decide to provide preventative care to unqualified immigrants in order to protect the local community's health. As has been repeatedly demonstrated, the provision of preventative care is less costly over time than providing evasive services in emergency rooms. However, the cost savings to preventative care are far outweighed by the protection provided to the community's public health as a whole.

Counties serve as safety-net providers, ultimately financing and providing care for our Medicaid ineligible and un-enrolled populations. We support the ability to finance this care in the most appropriate manner.

Thank you for your leadership and efforts to ensure that counties are able to protect the health of our local communities. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

LARRY NAAKE,
Executive Director.

THE CATHOLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
St. Louis, MO, March 30, 2004.

Hon. JOHN CORNYN,
Hart Senate Office Building,
Washington DC.

DEAR SENATOR CORNYN: On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care sponsors, systems, facilities, and related organizations, I am writing in support of your efforts to ensure that state and local governments have the ability to use their funds to provide non-emergency health services to legal and undocumented immigrants.

Specifically, CHA supports your amendment to strike the word "health" from Section 411 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA), which has been interpreted by some states to prohibit the use of any state and local funds to provide lifesaving health care to immigrants. This interpretation stands in sharp contrast to the thrust of PRWORA, which generally gave states greater authority to determine welfare rules, and the resulting confusion has had a negative impact on the health of immigrants in many states.

By clarifying that states and local governments may use their own funds to provide health services to immigrants, including important preventive care, your amendment can help ensure that hospitals and clinics have the clarity they need to serve the best interest of all of their patients. As organizations founded in a faith tradition and committed to the principles of Catholic social justice teaching, Catholic hospitals recognize and affirm the inherent dignity of every human being. Your amendment helps to further that principle.

Thank you again for your efforts to ensure that state and local governments have the certainty they need to use their own funds to provide appropriate health care to all immigrants. If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Rev. MICHAEL D. PLACE, STD,
President and Chief Executive Officer.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I would like to commend the Senator from

Maine, Ms. SNOWE, on the passage of her amendment to increase the mandatory funding levels for the Child Care and Development Fund by \$6 billion over 5 years. I enthusiastically support this amendment, as it is designed to help so many families with young children by ensuring that those children are properly cared for while their parents are at work.

Unfortunately, we know that more than 10 million children in the United States are left unsupervised after school on a regular basis. We know that the welfare rolls have been cut nearly 60 percent since 1996, and therefore, this statistic will only continue to grow as more and more parents work. Further, with cuts in State childcare funding, many working families are faced with no care for their children due to waiting lists and higher childcare costs.

But, with the passage of this amendment, my home State of Ohio alone would receive over \$34 million in additional childcare funds next fiscal year and more than \$266 million over the next 5 years. This translates into more children receiving care and more parents with the peace of mind that their children are being properly attended to while they cannot be at home.

Again, I commend Senator SNOWE for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we are in discussion now determining the best pathway to completion on the underlying bill, the welfare bill, an important bill that I know both sides of the aisle do want to appropriately address, through amendments and through the debate process, and we are working on the best way to accomplish that.

As I set out really 3 weeks ago, but in the early part of last week, we have set this week aside to address welfare and we are doing just that. But I really need to do everything possible to see that we do complete it this weekend. To help accomplish that, I will be sending a cloture motion to the desk on the pending committee substitute.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the sub-

stitute amendment to Calendar No. 305, H.R. 4, an act to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, improve access to quality child care, and for other purposes.

Bill Frist, Charles E. Grassley, John E. Sununu, Conrad Burns, Lamar Alexander, Peter G. Fitzgerald, Larry E. Craig, John Cornyn, Robert F. Bennett, John Ensign, Orrin G. Hatch, Mike Enzi, Mitch McConnell, Ted Stevens, Norm Coleman, James M. Inhofe, Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for the information of Senators, we will be closing here shortly, as soon as we wrap up a few things in a few minutes.

CAMBODIA TRAGEDY REMEMBERED

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today marks the seventh anniversary of the grenade attack against the Khmer Nation Party, renamed the Sam Rainsy Party, in Cambodia.

Recently, my friend from Arizona circulated a letter, which I gladly signed, calling for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to return to Phnom Penh to continue its investigation into the attack. I encourage the State Department and the FBI to coordinate efforts to ensure the FBI's quick return and to keep Congress informed of any progress in this case.

As I have in the past, I ask unanimous consent that the names of those murdered in this cowardly attack be printed in the RECORD following my remarks. Justice delayed has been justice denied for these victims and their families. They remain in my thoughts and prayers.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Mr. Cheth Duong Daravuth, Mr. Han Mony, Mr. Sam Sarin, Ms. Yong Sok Neuv, Ms. Yong Srey, Ms. Yos Siem, Ms. Chanty Pheakdey, Mr. Ros Sear, Ms. Sok Kheng, Mr. Yoeun Yorn, Mr. Chea Nang, and Mr. Nam Thy.

A DECADE OF EXCELLENCE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, every year, hundreds of thousands of high school students participate in team sports and other extra curricular activities. Through these activities, many young people learn the value of working together with others, and the meaning of hard work sacrifice.

These activities also teach our Nation's students to set their sights high,

by demonstrating that remarkable achievements come only with hard work and dedication. Today, I pay tribute to a group of young women from Madison High School in Madison, SD, who have proved this fact time and time again, most recently by extending one of the more remarkable winning streaks in our Nation.

On February 20, 2004, the girls' gymnastics team at Madison High won the Class A state title for the tenth consecutive season.

For the first seven titles, the Bulldogs were led ably by coach Linda Collignon. Since then, Madison has come full circle, having been led to the last three titles by Maridee Weise, a member of that first championship team.

It has been a long road for the Madison High team. In the early days of the gymnastics program at Madison High, many of the student-athletes would make the 90-mile round trip from Madison to train at a gymnastics facility in Sioux Falls. In time—and under the leadership of Coach Collignon—members of the Madison community volunteered to build a training facility on the high school campus, saving the school district more than \$100,000. It is that kind of community involvement and interest in its youth that has helped establish Madison's tradition in the sport.

Each day at practice, these student-athletes are motivated by a drawing of the classic World War II symbol, Rosie the Riveter, and the phrase "We Can Do It!" They have not only come to recognize the truth in those words, they have lived up to them.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting these student-athletes and their coaches on their latest championship, and on their truly remarkable run. I am proud to ask unanimous consent that the 2003–2004 Madison High School girls' gymnastics team roster be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Team members: Kari Schaefer, Brittany Postma, Brooke Postma, Landra Tieman, Jenny Poppen, Katie Keegan, Katie Breuer, Heidi Mogck, Kassie Finck, Sara Rogers, Heather Williams, Theresa Knapp, Katie McKenzie. Head Coach: Maridee Wiese, Assistant Coach: Kindra Norby, Student Manager: Erin Blom.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

A high school senior in Perry, IA, was harassed for 4 years by students who believed him to be gay. The high

school student was repeatedly pushed, shoved, and verbally attacked with anti-gay epithets. Students had also urinated on the high school senior in the shower after wrestling practice.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DOROTHY HEIGHT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week Dr. Dorothy Height was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in a ceremony in the Capital rotunda, on her 92nd birthday.

Dr. Height is a living legend. She is widely recognized as one of the pre-eminent civil rights leaders of modern history. Dr. Height has been a tireless advocate for equal rights for women, African Americans, and others for more than 65 years. From 1944 and until 1977, Dr. Height served on the National Board of the Young Women's Christian Association YWCA. In 1965, she launched the Center for Racial Justice at the YWCA, and she served as its director until 1977.

Currently the Chair and President Emerita of the National Council of Negro Women, Dr. Height became its fourth president in 1957. Under her leadership, the NCNW made substantial contributions and advances—both for the greater community of African American women and as an organization. Dr. Height led the NCNW to establish the first institution devoted to Black women's history, secure the Mary Bethune Council House designation as a national historic site, achieve tax exempt status for the NCNW, and bring the NCNW to national prominence.

Dr. Height played an active leadership role in virtually every major civil and human rights cause since the 1960s. She was the only woman at the table when Dr. Martin Luther King and the "Big Six" civil rights leaders made plans for the civil rights movement. Her life of distinguished service has been recognized with over 50 awards, including the National Council of Jewish Women's John F. Kennedy Memorial Award, the Congressional Black Caucus's William L. Dawson Award, the Ladies Home Journal's "Women of Year," the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton, and now the Congressional Gold Medal.

It is rare that Congress comes together to grant this award, but Dr. Height's life's work epitomizes the distinguished commitment to serve for which it was created to recognize. I congratulate Dr. Dorothy Height for nearly a century of remarkable leadership.

THE SITUATION IN DARFUR

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to comment on the ongoing crisis in Darfur, a region in western Sudan that has been the site of atrocities for months. A recent report from the International Crisis Group spells out the horrifying facts of the situation. The report indicates that 830,000 people have been displaced as a result of the conflict, and thousands have been killed. Government-supported militias have deliberately targeted civilians, sometimes focusing on unprotected villages with no apparent link to the rebels other than their ethnic profile. According to credible reports, militia atrocities have included indiscriminate killing and mutilation, rape on a massive scale, and the looting and destruction of food reserves and other property. Outright and indiscriminate government bombing has also been verifiably reported since the conflict began.

We must ask ourselves two questions. First, what can be done to help the innocent men, women, and children caught up in this nightmare? The U.S. must work with the international community to signal our collective resolve and to insist that the Government of Sudan stop playing games with humanitarian access. Khartoum needs to feel the pressure, and all parties need to work urgently for a settlement.

But we must also ask, what do these developments in Darfur tell us about the Government of Sudan? The reports from the region seem to confirm that the Government of Sudan has no qualms about backing attacks on innocent civilians.

I want the administration's extremely laudable peace initiative in Sudan to succeed. Many dedicated professionals have devoted countless hours to this enterprise, and many courageous Sudanese have taken difficult steps in the pursuit of a just peace. But my doubts about the prospects for a future of peace and cooperation are growing, rather than dissipating, at each new report on the Darfur crisis. I doubt the stability and sustainability of a peace agreed to by a party that accepts organized atrocities as just one more tool in its toolbox of governing. What kind of peace can be achieved with this kind of partner? Can we truly have confidence in this government's good faith? What kind of future cooperation can we realistically expect?

As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee's Subcommittee on African Affairs, I have been engaged on issues relating to Sudan for many years. I was proud to work with my colleague on that subcommittee for several years, Senator FRIST, on the Sudan Peace Act. I recognize the complexity of Sudanese dynamics, and I certainly understand that the situation in Darfur is different from the conflict between the Government of Sudan and