

TED KENNEDY'S HISTORIC MILESTONE IN SENATE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this is an interesting, important, and somewhat historic day. This is the day when Senator KENNEDY actually becomes the third most senior Member in the Senate's history, and I think it ought to be noted. He just surpassed the time of seniority by the distinguished Senator from Arizona, Carl Hayden. So he now ranks as the third most senior person in all of Senate history. I commend and congratulate him, and I know I join colleagues on both sides of the aisle in calling attention to this remarkable new addition to his already impressive and extensive résumé.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will comment on a matter that the majority leader raised with regard to the current legislation. The Homeland Security appropriations bill is critical legislation. I have admonished Members on our side of the aisle to recognize how critical it is we finish this work before we leave for the Rosh Hashanah holiday next week. It is very important that this work be done. As I understand it, we have 28 Senators—on both sides of the aisle—who have amendments. We will work with them. Senator REID has noted that he has begun to call each Senator to express the hope that we could winnow down the list.

I noticed as the finite list was established last night that many of these amendments are simply listed as relevant. I hope that many of these so-called placeholders could be eliminated and we could get on with the important work.

There is a need to work under time limits for each amendment and hopefully we can work as late in the evening each day to accomplish what is going to be an aggressive schedule as we try to finish this bill—I should say, as we finish this bill. We are going to do more than try. We will complete it no later than next Wednesday morning, and hopefully sooner than that.

CONCERNS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, each year, I travel through South Dakota, talking to people where they live and work, in the cafes where they meet, the schools where they send their children, the ranches and sale barns where they hope that this year will bring better prices than the last, the farms where they raise their crops—anywhere people gather to discuss what matters to them.

Every year, I get to all 66 counties, and every year, I marvel at the incredible range of opinions and perspectives I encounter along the way.

But there is another thing that was striking to me this year—and that is

the fact that wherever I was, I heard from different people from different backgrounds a lot of the same hopes, and a lot of the same concerns.

People have a sense of uncertainty. They are uncertain about the progress in the war on terror and the war in Iraq, and they are anxious about the economy—not just about their own jobs, and their own health care, but also about whether their communities and their way of life are going to survive.

In the past few years, whenever I have traveled home, I have sensed the strength of those feelings. And for many of the people I have met, those feelings are growing stronger.

South Dakotans are intensely proud of the valor of our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan—and I share that pride. But ours is a small State, and when South Dakotans talk about “the troops,” they are not talking about some abstract concept. They are talking about friends and loved ones. They are talking about a person who is not there behind the counter when they go to work, or a side of the bed that lies empty.

South Dakota is contributing more troops to our war effort than all but seven other countries.

And so, while South Dakotans support our troops, they also know better than most that support in words is not enough.

While I was home last month, I met a young man named Tyler Neuhardt, who was on leave from Iraq and was just a week away from being sent back. He was proud to serve. But he was also looking forward to returning to college, and he wanted some sense of how long he would be deployed so he could plan for his education and his future.

I spoke to a woman whose husband has been in Iraq for over a year-and-a-half, and she and her young son just learned that the earliest they can hope to see him home is the end of this year.

And I met Lloyd Dejung, who talked about how his unit in Iraq was building bridges in flak jackets that, in his words, you could poke a hole through with a knife.

Our Guard and Reserve troops deserve the same state-of-the-art equipment as active duty personnel. They should get honest answers about when they're coming home. And while they are fighting for their country, they should not have to worry about whether they will have to fight for their jobs, or for health care, or for their education once they return home.

That is why, tomorrow, I will be introducing a National Guard and Reserve Bill of Rights—to say to all our soldiers: You have met your duty to your country, and your country will meet its duty to you.

South Dakotans are fiercely proud, and fiercely independent. When you talk to them, they will tell you what you can do to help a neighbor or a friend, but it takes a little while to get people talking about their own con-

cerns. But when they do, there are a couple of things you hear over and over. They are worried about their jobs, they are worried about their health and their health care, and they are worried that as jobs become more scarce and health care becomes ever less affordable and less available, they are going to lose something else, too. They are worried that the strain these things place on the fabric of their communities will become just too much, and that their communities and their way of life just won't be able to survive.

These are concerns I heard everywhere I went, and they are concerns that we here in Washington have the power to do something about.

More than any time in my memory, people were telling me they needed two and 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 manufacturing jobs have left the State, and it is getting more difficult to find a full-time job that pays a wage good enough to raise a family.

I visited the town of Elk Point. A lot of the folks in Elk Point work about 20 minutes down the road in North Sioux City, where there is a Gateway plant. That plant has been cutting jobs, sending them to India. That plant is now down to 2,000 employees from a high of 6,000.

The people I met simply can not understand how this administration's top economic adviser and its Secretary of Labor can both say that outsourcing of jobs is good for the economy.

In Yankton, 10 percent of the work force is in manufacturing. I spoke to the owner of a company that makes road construction equipment. He said that he has had to cut jobs because we have not passed a highway bill.

The Senate version of the highway bill would create 6,500 jobs in South Dakota and over 1.7 million new jobs nationwide. Our infrastructure, our economy, and our communities need this bill.

Closely tied to concerns about jobs are concerns about health care.

In Huron, a woman came up to me at a meeting. She told me that her husband had been laid off from his job in February. They went on COBRA for a while, but it was expensive, and this month it ran out anyway. They both have health concerns, and they don't know what they are going to do.

Just a couple of nights ago, another woman approached me. She told me about her brother, who has diabetes.

He is 60 years old. He works 40 hours a week. He also took a paper route to earn some more money. But neither of his two jobs offers health insurance, so he doesn't have any. He has begun losing feeling in his legs, but he has not seen a doctor because he does not think he can afford to. A 60-year old man, working full-time and then some, can not afford to go see a doctor. In this country, in this century, that is a disgrace.

Everywhere I go, people are worried that their health care costs are rising. If they have health care through their jobs, they are afraid they might lose it. If they are paying for it themselves, they are afraid they can not afford it any longer. I think every American should have access to the same affordable health care options that members of Congress have.

At the very least, there are a number of steps we can take immediately. We should be providing health coverage to uninsured parents who have children eligible for Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, and I think we should let States have the option of covering pregnant women and children until the age of 20.

We should create a tax credit to help small business owners provide health care coverage for their employees. Most employers I talked to want to provide health insurance; they are just having an increasingly difficult time affording it.

This is a crisis, and we need to confront it. The ideas are there. We need the leadership.

Out in our small towns and farming and ranching communities, those concerns add up to one that is even greater—that a way of life is being lost. 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 up, teach them how to farm, and then pass their land down to them. But it is happening less frequently these days.

More often, children are forced to leave the communities they know and the families they love to find work in other places. They do not want to leave. But they can not find work good enough to allow them to raise a family. And so the way of life their families have enjoyed for generations is being lost.

But there is something else shared by the people I saw, and the places I visited: determination.

They are determined to make tomorrow better than today. You put them on a job, and they will work harder, and longer, and better than any worker in the world. You give our farmers and ranchers a fair price for what they produce and they will feed the world. You respect the service and protect the rights of our Guard and Reserve, and they will always step up to serve.

That is why I ask that in the time we have left in this session of Congress, we hear these concerns and act on them.

Yes, I saw anxiety and uncertainty. But I also saw pride and determination. I saw people willing to work together to make life better for their families, and strengthen their communities. That is what South Dakotans have always done.

If we adopt the same sense of patriotism and common purpose I saw across South Dakota, I have no doubt that we can make the short time we have left this year a time of accomplishment for

the people we serve, to help them meet the challenges they face.

FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDERS

There is one other serious public health challenge I want to mention this morning. It is a challenge I first learned about years ago during visits to Indian reservations in South Dakota. It is called Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders—FASD, for short.

FASD is an umbrella term that describes a range of physical and mental birth defects that can occur in a fetus when a pregnant woman drinks alcohol. It is a leading cause of mental retardation in America. It is also 100 percent preventable when women abstain from alcohol during pregnancy.

Every year in America, an estimated 40,000 babies are born with FASD, costing Americans more than \$3 billion each year in direct health care costs, and many times that amount in lost human potential. You can find FASD in every community in America. Native, non-native, rich, poor it doesn't discriminate.

Today is an important day in America's fight against this devastating disorder. It is America's first National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Day.

I thank Senator MURKOWSKI for sponsoring this resolution establishing national FASD day. I was proud to be a cosponsor.

Fifteen years ago, my wife Linda and I and a group of friends founded an organization that we called NOFAS, the National Organization of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Back then when we met in the living room of a very dear friend, Terry Lierman, there were not many of us to talk about these issues. And scientists and doctors understood very little about FAS. But we have learned an extraordinary amount since then. National FASD day will help us get the knowledge we have learned out to the people who need it the most.

We can save so many children and save families so much heartache simply by increasing people's awareness of what FASD is and how we can prevent it.

But we can't stop there. We need to continue to research and do more to help people who are living with FASD make the most of their God-given talents and abilities.

In 1998, I was proud to be the lead sponsor of legislation that created an FASD prevention and services program and a national task force on FAS and fetal alcohol effect.

Two months ago, I introduced a bill called the Advancing FASD Research, Prevention, and Services Act. My bill would identify areas for additional research by the National Institutes of Health.

It would improve coordination among Federal agencies involved in FASD treatment and research, and establish statewide FASD systems and local community partnerships—like a model partnership that is already up and running in South Dakota and other Midwestern States.

It would improve support services for families who are living with FASD. And it would strengthen educational outreach efforts to doctors, teachers, judges and others whose work puts them in contact with people with FASD, or with women who might be at risk of drinking during pregnancy.

Forty-thousand American children a year are born with FASD. We cannot leave these children behind, either. Whatever investments we make in FASD prevention, research and treatment will pay for themselves many times over in reduced health care costs and increased human potential.

Over the last 15 years, we have unlocked many of the mysteries surrounding FASD—and many more answers are just inches beyond our reach. As we observe this first National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Day, I ask my colleagues to take the next necessary steps in the fight against this devastating but completely preventable disorder. Before this Congress ends, let us pass the Advancing FASD Research, Prevention, and Services Act.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the distinguished leader leaves the floor, I knew the minority leader was going to speak on fetal alcohol syndrome. But I ask the distinguished Senator from South Dakota—I have in my library a book that he recommended written by someone from South Dakota on this subject, a book on this terrible problem that affects a lot of different people, especially in Indian country. I have never forgotten that book. It was something I had never heard of until I read that book. Does the Senator remember that book?

Mr. DASCHLE. I do so well. I have shared it with many people. I thank the Senator from Nevada, my dear friend and colleague, for sharing that observation. Michael Dorris is the author's name. The name of the book is "The Broken Cord." Michael introduced me to this whole issue. He tells the story in his book about two children in South Dakota who had fetal alcohol syndrome. Both have passed away. Both struggled mightily for years. And, of course, the extraordinary problems that the family had to confront are all accounted for in that book. Unfortunately, we lost Michael a few years ago, a powerful advocate for a national advocacy for addressing this issue. But I only hope more people will read that book. I appreciate the fact that my friend called it to the attention of our colleagues this morning.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to exceed 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the