

tucked a tiny American flag into the baby's curled fist.

His brother—Missouri National Guardsman, James "Buck" Hawkins—will cherish the letters O.T. sent in support of his duty and service to our Nation.

His sister, Cherry, will remember the brother she treated more like a son.

They all find solace in knowing that O.T. now peacefully rests alongside another great man and dedicated serviceman—O.T.'s dad, William.

We will never forget SSG Omer T. Hawkins.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I opposed the Ensign and McCain amendments Nos. 1219 and 1171 to the Homeland Security Appropriations bill, H.R. 2360.

These amendments would have shifted \$566 million from grants for first responders, including our State and local police officers, firefighters, and emergency health providers, to provide for an increase in detention beds and border security personnel. Those cuts in first responder funds would have been in addition to the \$467 million in first responder cuts already included in the underlying bill, resulting in a cut of 43 percent below fiscal year 2005. Such a cut in funding for equipping and training our first responders at a time when the Nation is at risk of a terrorist attack would not be appropriate. In addition, the Ensign amendment would have provided new spending power to the Homeland Security Secretary, which is not necessary or appropriate.

Having successfully sponsored an amendment to the fiscal year 2005 Iraq supplemental that added 500 Border Patrol agents, 218 immigration investigators, and detention officers, and 1,950 detention beds, and having worked closely with Chairman GREGG to see that the underlying bill includes robust funding for our border security, I know that such efforts can be achieved without cutting vital funds for our first responders or providing new spending authority to the Secretary of Homeland Security. Indeed, if the amendments were adopted, the funds would likely have sat in the Treasury because the Department could not hire and train more personnel than the levels provided in the committee bill.

That is why I, along with a bipartisan majority of the Senate, joined with the chairman to oppose these amendments.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I want to add my thoughts to the debate

on the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006.

First, I want to preface my remarks by applauding the chairman and ranking member of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee for their work on this important bill. They worked within very difficult constraints and had to make incredibly difficult tradeoffs in deciding where to place our homeland security spending priorities. The fight against terrorism is our number one priority and this appropriations bill is a key component in that fight.

We have been debating this important bill in the aftermath of the recent terrorist attacks in London. Those horrible attacks served as yet another reminder of the importance of working with our allies to defeat terrorist networks. This tragic event also reminds us of how much we rely on our first responders and the employees of the Department of Homeland Security to keep us safe. I want to thank these brave men and women who work daily to protect this Nation. They are on the front lines of the fight against terrorism. They are the ones who are called on to stop and respond to any future attack upon our Nation. This bill includes important resources these brave men and women need to perform their critical tasks.

I was pleased that the Senate adopted my amendment requiring the Department of Homeland Security to report to Congress on its use of data-mining in fiscal year 2006. This amendment will provide the American people with critical information about the use of and plans for data-mining technology and the way highly personal information, like credit reports, travel records and other personal information, may be obtained and used by our Government. This amendment will not stop any data-mining—it simply requires the Department of Homeland Security to report to Congress on any data-mining programs it is using or developing and how these programs implicate the civil liberties and privacy of all Americans. With complete information, the American people will be able to make considered judgments about which programs should and should not go forward.

I was also pleased that the Senate adopted an amendment that I cosponsored that was offered by Senator VOINOVICH. This amendment increases funding for Emergency Management Performance Grants, EMPG, by \$10 million to \$190 million, which is \$20 million more than requested by the President. The EMPG program is crucial in assisting State and local officials in preparing for all-hazards emergencies. The program provides emergency managers with the resources they need to increase coordination and planning so that if an emergency occurs, State and local officials will respond much more efficiently and effectively. Although this boost in funding

does not fully address the \$264 million shortfall identified last year by the National Emergency Management Association, it is an important step in the right direction.

Unfortunately, not all of our first responder programs fared as well. Many, including firefighter grants and State homeland security grants, were significantly cut. This bill also has less funding for transit security than last year's Senate bill and bipartisan efforts to increase that funding to levels authorized by the Senate last year unfortunately failed. Although I am very disappointed with the major cuts to first responder programs and the failure to increase transit funding, I believe this bill accomplishes a lot within the budgetary constraints in which it operates. It goes a long way towards improving our border security and to combating the multitude of evolving threats faced by our Nation. However, I regret that it does not go far enough.

Let me explain. I strongly agree with the distinguished chairman when he said that Congress must decide on the budget priorities within the context of a reasonable budget for national defense and homeland security. We must answer the question: Do our national security budget priorities most effectively address the threats we face? I believe that this homeland security bill does a reasonably good job within its limited budget allocation. However, within the broader context of our overall national security spending, our priorities are abysmally out of touch with reality. For example, we continue to spend \$8 billion to \$10 billion a year on an unproven missile defense system. Those figures suggest that this troubled program is almost twice as important to our Nation's security as Customs and Border Protection, three times more important than the entire Transportation Security Administration, and three times more important than the combined funding for our first responders, ports, transit, and rail security. It is time to take a broader view when it comes to our national security budget priorities and make the tradeoffs that must be made.

I supported several amendments that would have added funding for critical security needs not fully addressed in this bill. I must point out again this year that I do not take lightly my decision to vote in favor of spending more money. Fiscal responsibility is one of my highest priorities and I constantly look for ways to limit government spending. I am honored that the Concord Coalition and others have recognized me for my efforts in this regard. Although fiscal responsibility remains one of my top priorities, it is imperative that we provide the resources needed to combat terrorism.

I voted for this bill because it provides funding for many important security needs. However, our Nation's vulnerabilities demand more and I will continue to work to ensure that our vital homeland security needs are met.

STOPPING GUN VIOLENCE THROUGH PUBLIC AWARENESS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to make my colleagues aware of one of the many organizations working to bring an end to the gun violence problem in this country, the PAX organization based in New York City. According to their Web site, PAX is "the largest non-political, nonprofit organization dedicated to ending the gun violence epidemic in America." As part of its public health campaigns, PAX promotes commonsense solutions to help protect families, teenagers, and children from the tragedy of gun violence.

One national program run by PAX, known as the Asking Saves Kids or ASK Campaign, encourages parents to simply ask other parents if there are guns in the homes where their children play. According to statistics cited by the ASK Campaign, more than 40 percent of households with children have guns. In the overwhelming majority of these households, the child also knows where the gun is hidden. Using public service advertising and grassroots education, the ASK Campaign is working to prevent accidental shootings involving children by encouraging parents to take common sense steps to protect their children. The ASK Campaign is a partnership between PAX and the Academy of Pediatrics and is supported by more than 400 organizations nationwide including the American Medical Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Education Association, the Children's Defense Fund, and the Police Executive Research Forum.

According to PAX, in 75 percent of the school shootings in our country, the attackers told other students of their plans prior to the attack. In addition, PAX states that students bring more than 100,000 guns to school every day. To help address these issues, PAX has created the Speak Up Campaign. The centerpiece of the campaign is a national hotline, 1-866-SPEAK-UP, where children and teenagers can call to anonymously report threats involving weapons at their school. Since the creation of the hotline in 2002, the Speak Up Campaign has received more than 5,000 calls which were then passed along to appropriate law enforcement officials. To increase public awareness of school violence prevention and the Speak Up hotline, the campaign has created an outreach program for schools and other community organizations. PAX has also partnered with various cable networks including MTV, NBC, ABC, and CBS to help reach children, teens, and parents with its message.

I thank the PAX organization and their partners for their work to end gun violence. Their commonsense approach provides families with practical solutions to help protect themselves from the tragedy of gun violence. I am hopeful that the 109th Congress will do more to support their efforts by taking up and passing sensible gun safety legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOND, Mr. BURNS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. ROCKEFELLER):

S. 1411. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a pilot program to provide regulatory compliance assistance to small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. DORGAN:

S. 1412. A bill to prohibit the merger, acquisition, or takeover of Unocal Corporation by CNOOC Ltd. of China; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUGAR (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 1413. A bill to redesignate the Crowne Plaza in Kingston, Jamaica, as the Colin L. Powell Residential Plaza; considered and passed.

By Mr. HATCH:

S. 1414. A bill to provide for the conduct of a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Trail of the Ancients National Heritage Area in the Four Corners region of the States of Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 757

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 757, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

S. 969

At the request of Mr. OBAMA, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 969, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to preparation for an influenza pandemic, including an avian influenza pandemic, and for other purposes.

S. 1089

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1089, a bill to establish the National Foreign Language Coordination Council to develop and implement a foreign language strategy, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ALLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1112, a bill to make permanent the enhanced educational savings provisions for qualified tuition programs enacted as part of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001.

S. 1174

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1174, a bill to authorize the President to posthumously award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Robert M. La Follette, Sr., in recognition of his important contributions to the Progressive movement, the State of Wisconsin, and the United States.

S. 1249

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1249, a bill to require the Secretary of Education to rebate the amount of Federal Pell Grant aid lost as a result of the update to the tables for State and other taxes used in the Federal student aid need analysis for award year 2005-2006.

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1249, supra.

S. 1265

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1265, a bill to make grants and loans available to States and other organizations to strengthen the economy, public health, and environment of the United States by reducing emissions from diesel engines.

S. 1317

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to provide for the collection and maintenance of cord blood units for the treatment of patients and research, and to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Bone Marrow and Cord Blood Cell Transplantation Program to increase the number of transplants for recipients suitably matched to donors of bone marrow and cord blood.

S. 1325

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1325, a bill to establish grants to provide health services for improved nutrition, increased physical activity, obesity and eating disorder prevention, and for other purposes.

S. 1358

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1358, a bill to protect scientific integrity in Federal research and policymaking.

S. 1388

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1388, a bill to amend chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the Regulatory Flexibility Act), to ensure complete analysis of potential impacts on small entities of rules, and for other purposes.