

Law enforcement efforts to curb the distribution of dangerous meth making chemicals and locking up fertilizers have been successful. In Iowa, we've reduced the number of meth labs by nearly 80 percent. But our effort to fight meth is not over. Unfortunately, many States have seen dramatic increases in the amount of crystal meth or "ice" smuggled into the State. Ice is a much purer and more dangerous form of the illegal stimulant. Addicts who no longer have access to meth manufactured through home labs are using this more dangerous form. This drug puts a heavy toll on our communities, our justice and health care system, and tears apart families.

We need to remember that the meth epidemic is a double scourge. It is a public safety crisis. And it is also a public health crisis. Even if we shut down every home-based lab, we would still have a meth problem in this country. It will not go away until we do a better job of preventing people from using meth in the first place and giving addicts the treatment they need to kick the habit for good.

Bear in mind that meth is more addictive than crack cocaine or heroin. More than 50 percent of meth users started when they were under age 18. Law enforcement officers across Iowa tell me that prevention and treatment are the keys to stopping this epidemic.

Yet this is exactly where we are falling short. There are 22 million Americans in need of treatment for substance addiction. Less than 3 million are able to get help. The bill I am introducing today would aggressively step up efforts to prevent meth addiction and provide more treatment options.

Given the highly addictive nature of methamphetamine, prevention is crucial. Over 50 percent of meth users started when they were under age 18. We must target our efforts to ensure that people do not ever start using meth. My bill provides grants to schools and communities for meth prevention programs. It creates a telephone helpline and an online parent resource center. When parents or family members want information on keeping their children safe from drugs, or they fear a young person is experimenting or in trouble with drugs, this telephone helpline and Internet resource will give live, real-time support and information, as well as referrals to community resources.

At the same time, the bill takes a comprehensive approach to treatment. We know that with proper treatment, meth addicts can recover and live productive lives. Every dollar spent on treatment saves taxpayers seven dollars, largely by reducing crime, incarceration, and health care costs. The bill that I am introducing today is designed to realize these savings by promoting a comprehensive approach to meth treatment.

This legislation promotes range of treatment options. First, it includes family-based treatment. Parental sub-

stance use is the culprit in at least 70 percent of all child welfare spending, yet only 10 percent of child welfare agencies are able to successfully find substance abuse programs for mothers and children. Comprehensive treatment specifically for parents can assist them in recovering and providing safe and nurturing environments for their children. This legislation provides critical resources for adolescent and family-based treatment services to ensure that young people and parents are able to access the treatment they need.

Second, this legislation includes grants to offer treatment services for nonviolent adults and juveniles as an alternative to jail and detention. Nearly 80 percent of those in jail have been identified as having a substance abuse problem and one-third of inmates reported being under the influence at the time of their offense. We must provide treatment in order to prevent recidivism and cycling through the justice system.

My bill also improves services to help recovering addicts make the transition from treatment to the community, including housing assistance and help finding work, education, and mental health services. These things are critical to long-term abstinence and recovery.

I ask for your help now in joining me to fighting the meth epidemic that is plaguing our country. This drug tears apart families and is a heavy burden on our communities, our justice and health care system. We must dedicate the time and resources to getting this problem under control and we must do it now.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 192—RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK ON MAY 6 THROUGH MAY 12, 2007

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 192

Whereas, since 2003, National Nurses Week is celebrated annually from May 6, also known as National Nurses Day, through May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing;

Whereas National Nurses Week is the time each year when nurses are recognized for the critical role they play in providing safe, high quality, and preventative health care;

Whereas nurses are the cornerstone of the Nation's complex health care system, representing the largest single component of the health care profession, with an estimated 2,900,000 registered nurses in the United States;

Whereas, according to a study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in May 2002, a higher proportion of nursing care provided by registered nurses and a greater number of hours of care by registered nurses per day are associated with better outcomes for hospitalized patients;

Whereas nurses are experienced researchers and their work encompasses a wide scope

of scientific inquiry including clinical research, health systems and outcomes research, and nursing education research;

Whereas nurses are currently serving the Nation admirably in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas nurses help inform and educate the public to improve the practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients they care for;

Whereas our Nation continues to face a nursing shortage unprecedented in its depth and duration, with a projected 1,200,000 new and replacement nurses needed by 2014;

Whereas the nationwide nursing shortage has caused dedicated nurses to work longer hours and care for more acutely ill patients;

Whereas nurses are strong allies to Congress as they help inform, educate, and work closely with legislators to improve the education, retention, recruitment, and practice of all nurses and, more importantly, the health and safety of the patients they care for; and

Whereas nurses are an integral part of the health care delivery team and provide quality care, support, and education to patients and their families, conduct essential research, and serve as strong patient advocates: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of nurses to the health care system of the United States;

(2) supports the goals and ideals of National Nurses Week, as founded by the American Nurses Association; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Nurses Week with appropriate recognition, ceremonies, activities, and programs to demonstrate the importance of nurses to the everyday lives of patients.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to express my sincere appreciation for the more than 2.9 million nurses in our country. In recognition of National Nurses Week, May 6 through 12, I am pleased to introduce a resolution with Senators MIKULSKI and SNOWE to commemorate this week and the valuable role of nurses nationwide.

Our resolution honors the contributions that nurses make day—after day—on the front lines of patient care. We do not thank nurses as often as we should. Nurses are an invaluable resource not only to our health care system but also to medical research—in health systems and outcomes, in nursing education, and in clinical settings. They serve our Nation admirably in our communities and in our military, including the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Nurses do so much for our country, yet one of the biggest challenges facing our health care system today is a shortage of nurses. According to an April 2006 report by the American Hospital Association, we need approximately 118,000 registered nurses to fill vacant positions nationwide. By 2020, there will be a shortfall of more than 1 million nurses.

The problem is not a lack of interest by capable people willing to be trained. The issue is a lack of faculty to educate future nurses. Last year, nursing colleges across the Nation denied admission to more than 40,000 qualified

applicants from entry-level and graduate nursing education programs, including almost 2,000 in my State of Illinois alone. Over 71 percent of the schools surveyed cited the lack of faculty as the primary reason that qualified students were turned away. Nursing schools need the resources to teach and train a new generation of nurses and nurse educators.

This is why I introduced the Nurse Education, Expansion, and Development, or NEED, Act. This act would provide schools of nursing with grants to hire and retain new faculty, purchase educational equipment, enhance clinical laboratories, and repair and expand infrastructure—some of the very problems that keep nursing schools from enrolling additional students today.

The Illinois Nurses Association's theme for National Nurses Week this year is Working Together to Make a Difference, and when it comes to the nursing shortage, we all should adopt this theme. Strengthening nursing schools, increasing the number of graduates, and driving up the quality of care with an adequate supply of nurses depends on all of us working together.

Nurses care for us and our loved ones when we are at our most vulnerable. The difference they make in our lives, their dedication, and their enormous contributions are an important part of our country's strength.

This week—and always—we honor their efforts and thank them for all their work in keeping our Nation healthy and strong.

SENATE RESOLUTION 193—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MAY 6 THROUGH MAY 12, 2007, AS “NORTH AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH WEEK” AND MAY 9, 2007, AS “OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL DAY”

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. OBAMA, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 193

Whereas every year more than 5,700 people die from job-related injuries and 4,400,000 more suffer occupational injuries and illnesses;

Whereas transportation crashes continue to be the number 1 cause of on-the-job deaths, and overall in 2005 there were 6,159,000 transportation accidents resulting in 43,433 deaths, 2,700,000 injuries, and an estimated \$230,600,000,000 in tangible costs;

Whereas every day millions of people go to and return home from work safely due, in part, to the efforts of many unsung heroes, such as occupational safety, health, and environmental practitioners, who work day in and day out identifying hazards and implementing safety and health advances in all industries and at all workplaces, aimed at eliminating workplace fatalities, injuries, and illnesses;

Whereas these occupational safety, health, and environmental professionals and members of the American Society of Safety Engineers work to prevent accidents, injuries,

and occupational diseases, create safer work and leisure environments, and develop safer products, and are committed to protecting people, property, and the environment;

Whereas the work of these professionals in the areas of occupational safety, health promotion, disease prevention, and wellness programs has contributed greatly to the improvement of overall employee health, increased productivity, and reduction in health care costs, and yields significant returns on investments in occupational safety and health for the employer;

Whereas our society has long recognized that a safe and healthy workplace positively impacts employee morale, health, and productivity;

Whereas the more than 30,000 members of the American Society of Safety Engineers, along with the more than 150,000 combined members of the Academy of Certified Hazardous Materials Managers (ACHMM), the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc., (AAOHN), the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), are occupational safety, health, and environmental practitioners dedicated to keeping people safe at work and protecting property and the environment;

Whereas the purpose of North American Occupational Safety and Health Week (NAOSH) is to increase understanding of the benefits of investing in occupational safety and health, to demonstrate the positive impact that integrating effective safety and health programs in the workplace and the community has on the economy and business, to raise awareness of the role and contribution of safety, health, and environmental professionals in all areas, and to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses by increasing awareness and implementation of safety and health programs;

Whereas the theme of NAOSH Week 2007 is all modes of transportation safety, particularly stressing that motor vehicle drivers should drive wisely to save lives; and

Whereas on May 9 occupational safety and health professionals will be recognized during the second annual Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day for the work they do to keep people safe at work: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of May 6 through May 12, 2007, to be “North American Occupational Safety and Health Week” (NAOSH) and May 9, 2007, to be “Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day”;

(2) commends occupational safety, health, and environmental practitioners for their ongoing commitment to protecting people, property, and the environment;

(3) commends those businesses that encourage a strong safety culture and incorporate occupational safety and health into their business strategies;

(4) encourages all industries, organizations, community leaders, employers, and employees to join with the American Society of Safety Engineers to support activities aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of preventing illness, injury, and death in the workplace, during the week of May 6 through May 12, 2007, and throughout the year;

(5) recognizes the commitment of occupational safety and health professionals in their ongoing work to protect people, property, and the environment on May 9, 2007, Occupational Safety and Health Professional Day;

(6) urges everyone to observe the theme of NAOSH Week and drive responsibly; and

(7) encourages the people of the United States to observe “North American Occupational Safety and Health Week” and “Occu-

pational Safety and Health Professional Day” with appropriate programs and activities.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1065. Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. BAUCUS, and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1495, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1066. Mr. CRAIG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1067. Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1068. Mrs. CLINTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1069. Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. CHAMBLISS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1070. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1071. Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1072. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1073. Mr. CARDIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1074. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1075. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1076. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1077. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1078. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1079. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1080. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1081. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1495, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1082. Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for Mr. BUNNING) proposed an amendment to the