

Another important aspect of this act is fostering economic stability for fathers and their families. This act establishes three employment demonstration programs. One program is supervised by courts or state child support agencies that serve parents who are determined to be in need of employment services in order to pay child support obligations. The court can arrange temporary employment services for the father rather than throwing him in jail for nonpayment of support. The second is a transitional jobs program that combines temporary subsidized employment with activities that help fathers develop skills and remove barriers to employment. The third program establishes public-private partnerships to provide fathers with "career pathways" that help them advance from jobs at low skill levels through jobs that require greater skills and provide family-sustaining wages and benefits.

These programs are modeled on successful initiatives in Indiana and Illinois and will be subject to rigorous evaluations to ensure the goals are being achieved.

In both the Illinois State Senate and the Senate, I have led efforts to expand the earned-income tax credit, EITC, which is one of the most successful antipoverty programs in the country to date. It rewards work and supplements wages that may be too low to support a family. The Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act would double the number of working single adults eligible for EITC benefits, increase the benefit, reward and support parents who are current on their child support payments, and reduce the EITC marriage penalty which hurts low-income families. Under this plan, full-time workers making minimum wage would get an EITC benefit up to \$555, more than three times greater than the \$175 benefit they get today. If the workers are responsibly supporting their children on child support, this bill would give those workers a benefit of \$1,110.

Additionally, this bill improves the Responsible Fatherhood and Marriage Promotion programs that were funded by the Deficit Reduction Act. Funding is increased, and all Fatherhood and Marriage programs are required to coordinate with domestic violence prevention services to reduce instances of domestic violence and promote healthy, nonviolent relationships.

I would like take a final few moments to talk about the breakdown of families in the African-American community, because the epidemic of absentee fathers runs deep. Today, around 70 percent of Black children are born outside of marriage. Of the 30 percent born to married parents, more than half experience a divorce. That means that about 85 percent of Black children spend some or all of their childhood in a home without their father. As our children grow up, statistics continue to paint a bleak picture. Fewer than 6 of every 10 young Black men are em-

ployed, and in some of our urban and rural areas the rate of unemployment is over 50 percent. Roughly one-third of young Black men are involved in some way with the criminal justice system. And young Black men have the lowest educational attainment among Black and White men and women.

These factors contribute to low marriage rates among African-American men. But by age 34, nearly half of black men are fathers. And roughly two-thirds of all Black men leaving prison are fathers. As hard as some of these men try, it is likely that their children will also be denied the advantages of healthy parental relationships and married families. Their children will be more likely to live in poverty and to become young, unmarried parents themselves. Their children's life chances will be limited. The cycle of poverty and despair will continue.

It is important to remember that there is no segment of our population no income level, no religion, and no race—that is immune to these challenges. Some segments of the population are worse off than others. However, I believe there is reason for hope. At the time of the birth of the child, most fathers are close to both the mother and their child. The challenge is to maintain healthy relationships between parents and to strengthen the early bonds between fathers and their children. The challenge is to improve economic opportunity for all parents so they can support themselves and their families. The challenge is to break the cycle by strengthening America's most vulnerable and fragile families.

That is what this bill does, and it is fully paid for by revenue raised by closing tax loopholes. This is a solid first step forward in removing government barriers to healthy family formation, and addressing the crisis of fatherhood among our Nation's low-income populations. I urge my colleagues to support the Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families Act of 2007.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, at a time when we are witnessing the devastating consequences of ethnic and sectarian division in places such as Iraq and Darfur, I believe it is vital to recognize the efforts of those who work to promote peace and reconciliation. In that spirit, I wish to commend the 53 Nobel laureates who signed an appeal by the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity in support of "tolerance, contact and cooperation between Turks and Armenians."

In their appeal, the laureates call on both Turks and Armenians to take the steps necessary to open the Turkish-Armenian border, generate confidence through civil society cooperation, improve official contacts, and allow basic freedoms. As part of this commitment, the laureates call on Turkey to end all forms of discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities and abolish

Article 301 of the Turkish Penal Code. This provision has been used to take legal action against those who speak out about the Armenian genocide, including Nobel laureate Orhan Pamuk and recently murdered Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink. There is no question that article 301 contributed to the toxic political environment that led up to Mr. Dink's assassination in January.

The laureates also note that "Turks and Armenians have a huge gap in perceptions over the Armenian Genocide." To address this chasm of understanding, they call for further study and dissemination of a report prepared by the International Center for Transitional Justice. That impartial analysis of the massacres perpetrated against Armenians in the early 20th century concluded that the killings "can be said to include all the elements of the crime of genocide . . ." This finding was corroborated by the International Association of Genocide Scholars, which issued its own statement in 1997 to reaffirm "that the mass murder of Armenians in Turkey in 1915 is a case of genocide which conforms to the statutes of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide." The existence of these independent evaluations of the Armenian genocide and relevant international law should provide an opportunity for both countries to accept the verdict of history and move forward.

Mr. President, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has unanimously passed S. Res. 65, a resolution echoing many of the sentiments expressed by the laureates and honoring the life of Hrant Dink, a leading proponent of Turkish-Armenian reconciliation up until the time of his brutal murder. It is my hope that the full Senate will adopt this important measure without further delay.

I congratulate the Wiesel Foundation for its work to produce this important statement and request consent that it be printed in the RECORD. I hope that the words of these Nobel laureates will encourage the people of both nations to recognize and ultimately transcend the legacy of the Armenian genocide. Once this occurs, I have every confidence that the people of Armenia and Turkey will be able to rebuild the ties between their countries and forge a new, enduring peace.

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

THE ELIE WIESEL
FOUNDATION FOR HUMANITY,
New York, NY, April 9, 2007.

DEAR FRIENDS: We, the undersigned Nobel laureates, issue this appeal directly to the peoples of Turkey and Armenia. Mindful of the sacrifice paid by Hrant Dink, the ethnic Armenian editor of *Agos* in Turkey, who was assassinated on January 19, 2007, and whose death was mourned by both Turks and Armenians, we believe that the best way to pay tribute to Mr. Dink is through service to his life's work safeguarding freedom of expression and fostering reconciliation between Turks and Armenians.

To these ends, Armenians and Turks should encourage their governments to:

Open the Turkish-Armenian border. An open border would greatly improve the economic conditions for communities on both sides of the border and enable human interaction, which is essential for mutual understanding. Treaties between the two countries recognize existing borders and call for unhampered travel and trade.

Generate confidence through civil society cooperation. Turks and Armenians have been working since 2001 on practical projects that offer great promise in creatively and constructively dealing with shared problems. The governments should support such efforts by, for example, sponsoring academic links between Turkish and Armenian faculty, as well as student exchanges.

Improve official contacts. Civil society initiatives would be enhanced by the governments' decision to accelerate their bilateral contacts, devise new frameworks for consultation, and consolidate relations through additional treaty arrangements and full diplomatic relations.

Allow basic freedoms. Turkey should end discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities and abolish Article 301 of the Penal Code, which makes it a criminal offense to denigrate Turkishness. Armenia also should reverse its own authoritarian course, allow free and fair elections, and respect human rights.

Turks and Armenians have a huge gap in perceptions over the Armenian Genocide. To address this gap, we refer to the 2003 "Legal Analysis on the Applicability of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide to Events which Occurred During the Early Twentieth Century," which corroborated findings of the International Association of Genocide Scholars.

It concluded that, "At least some of the [Ottoman] perpetrators knew that the consequences of their actions would be the destruction, in whole or in part, of the Armenians of eastern Anatolia, as such, or acted purposefully towards this goal and, therefore, possessed the requisite genocidal intent. The Events can thus be said to include all the elements of the crime of genocide as defined in the Convention." It also concluded that, "The Genocide Convention contains no provision mandating its retroactive application."

The analysis offers a way forward, which addresses the core concerns of both Armenians and Turks. Of course, coming to terms will be painful and difficult. Progress will not occur right away. Rather than leaving governments to their own devices, affected peoples and the leaders of civil society need to engage in activities that promote understanding and reconciliation while, at the same time, urging their governments to chart a course towards a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Peter Agre, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2003).
Sidney Altman, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1989).

Philip W. Anderson, Nobel Prize, Physics (1977).

Kenneth J. Arrow, Nobel Prize, Economics (1972).

Richard Axel, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2004).
Baruj Benacerraf, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1980).

Gunter Blobel, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1999).

Georges Charpak, Nobel Prize, Physics (1992).

Steven Chu, Nobel Prize, Physics (1997).
J.M. Coetzee, Nobel Prize, Literature (2003).

Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, Nobel Prize, Physics (1997).

Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Prize, Peace (1976).

Robert F. Curl Jr., Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1996).

Paul J. Crutzen, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1995).

Frederik W. de Klerk, Nobel Prize, Peace (1993).

Johann Deisenhofer, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1998).

John B. Fenn, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2002).

Val Fitch, Nobel Prize, Physics (1980).

Jerome I. Friedman, Nobel Prize, Physics (1990).

Donald A. Glaser, Nobel Prize, Physics (1960).

Sheldon Glashow, Nobel Prize, Physics (1979).

Roy J. Glauber, Nobel Prize, Physics (2005).

Clive W.J. Granger, Nobel Prize, Economics (2003).

Paul Greengard, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2000).

David J. Gross, Nobel Prize, Physics (2004).

Roger Guillemin, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1977).

Dudley R. Herschbach, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1986).

Avram Hershko, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2004).

Roald Hoffman, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1981).

Daniel Kahneman, Nobel Prize, Economics (2002).

Eric R. Kandel, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2000).

Aaron Klug, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1982).

Edwin G. Krebs, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1992).

Sir Harold W. Kroto, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1996).

Finn E. Kydland, Nobel Prize, Economics (2004).

Leon M. Lederman, Nobel Prize, Physics (1988).

Anthony J. Leggett, Nobel Prize, Physics (2003).

Rudolph A. Marcus, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1992).

Daniel L. McFadden, Nobel Prize, Economics (2000).

Craig C. Mello, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2006).

Robert C. Merton, Nobel Prize, Economics (1997).

Marshall W. Nirenberg, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1968).

Sir Paul Nurse, Nobel Prize, Medicine (2001).

Douglas D. Osheroff, Nobel Prize, Physics (1996).

Martin L. Perl, Nobel Prize, Physics (1995).

John C. Polanyi, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (1986).

Stanley Prusiner, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1997).

José Ramos-Horta, Nobel Prize, Peace (1996).

Richard J. Roberts, Nobel Prize, Medicine (1993).

Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize, Literature (1986).

Elie Wiesel, Nobel Prize, Peace (1986).

Betty Williams, Nobel Prize, Peace (1976).

Kurt Wüthrich, Nobel Prize, Chemistry (2002).

dertaken over the past few years by two nephrologists who, only recently, have come to call Idaho "home." Dr. Naeem Rahim and his brother Dr. Fahim Rahim, originally from Pakistan, came to Pocatello, Idaho from New York City in 2005. In less than a year, the Rahim brothers established a world-class kidney treatment center, the Idaho Kidney Institute. Their work has meant improved health and saved lives for those suffering from chronic kidney disease, uncontrolled high blood pressure, postkidney transplant care, internal medicine, diabetes-related kidney problems, anemia and dialysis care. Started in Pocatello, the institute has offices in Blackfoot and Idaho Falls. The Rahim brothers have helped people of all ages seeking relief and care for renal diseases, both critical and long-term care.

The Rahim brothers have closed a gap in treatment facilities and services for kidney patients in southeast Idaho and, in particular, understand the need for preventive care. Additionally, they have a reputation for delivering their medical expertise with an astute sense of care and concern for their patients. Their outstanding work was brought to my attention by a family who had sought care for an ill relative, literally, across the Nation, with limited success. Upon learning of the Idaho Kidney Institute, they sought treatment there, and met with overwhelming success. It is good to know that Idahoans have access to such exceptional medical expertise, right at home.

Idaho has many gems; Doctors Fahim and Naeem Rahim are two such gems.●

HONORING WEBSTER P. PHILLIPS

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, today, Senator GRASSLEY and I recognize Webster Phillips, a distinguished executive at the Social Security Administration. Web is Associate Commissioner for Legislative Development. He is a dedicated public servant who has served his country for more than 30 years.

A native of Illinois, Web served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He began his career at Social Security in the local office in Alton, IL, as a claims representative. In 1980, he became an operations supervisor in the Rock Island, IL, Social Security office. In 1983, Web was selected as a management intern and completed a series of developmental assignments in the Chicago regional office and in SSA headquarters in Baltimore. In 1987, Web joined the staff of the Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, and has worked in a variety of assignments since that time.

Senator GRASSLEY and I met Web in 1991, when he was assigned to the Senate Committee on Finance while participating in the LEGIS-Fellows program. In 1993, Web returned to the Finance Committee where he participated in the development of the legislation enacted by the Congress in 1994 that established SSA as an independent

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING DRS. NAEEM AND FAHIM RAHIM

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I recognize the remarkable efforts un-