

of American Indians with poor emotional health is on average 2.1 times higher than the adult Massachusetts population; an obesity rate twice as high as the rate for Massachusetts adults in general. Moreover, the percentage of Mashpee Wampanoag adults with diabetes is nearly two times higher than the rest of the adult population in our State. During the 5 years between 1999 and 2004, American Indian mothers were over three times more likely to smoke during pregnancy than all mothers giving birth in Massachusetts. American Indian students have much higher percentages of smoking, drinking alcohol before age 13, and lifetime cocaine use than all other students in Massachusetts. Also, 1 in 4 American Indian high school students have reported attempting suicide compared to 1 out of 10 for all other students. The Indian health bill is an important step we must take to begin reversing these troubling statistics in Massachusetts and across the Nation.

This bill can mark a new day of at last addressing the health care needs of Indian Country programs to increase the outreach and enrollment of Indians in Medicaid and CHIP and improve the ability for tribes to participate in managed care health plans. The Indian Health Care Improvement Act brings greater access to health care services, improved medical insurance coverage, and education of disease prevention and healthy lifestyles.

The Senate came together across partisan lines to take a step forward with Indian Country, and I look forward to the quick passage of the bill and ultimately to seeing it signed into law by President Bush. This must be the beginning, not the end, of a new compact with Indian Country—and a renewed commitment to making sure that no American's health suffers because they are born on a farm, in a city, or on a reservation.

RED CROSS MONTH

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the Red Cross and its campaign to encourage citizen preparedness for disasters.

For 65 years, since the first proclamation by Franklin D. Roosevelt, Presidents of the United States have designated March as Red Cross Month.

I am proud to support this year's proclamation in recognizing this great organization, whose activities include lifesaving courses, blood drives, sheltering families displaced by fire or flood, and responding to major disasters. This January, for example, Red Cross work in my home State of Maine included an urgent blood drive amid ice and snow that had reduced some hospitals' blood supply to a single day. Other Maine Red Cross workers were taking care of a seven-member family in the town of Skowhegan who had lost their home and possessions in a fire.

I know the good works of the Red Cross both as a Maine resident and as a

Senator. As ranking member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security, I have worked closely with emergency management agencies and non-profit organizations for years. I know the Red Cross has not only saved many lives and comforted millions but has taken steps to improve its structure and capabilities for disaster response.

The record of recent years for terrorism, fires, earthquakes, floods, and other disasters underscores the need for preparedness not only at all levels of government but among individual citizens and families.

I therefore commend the Red Cross for focusing their public-communication efforts this year on the theme of "Be Red Cross Ready." It is a well-chosen theme: Red Cross survey work finds that up to 60 percent of Americans are entirely unprepared for disaster. They have no emergency supplies, no firstaid or CPR training, no rendezvous or communication plans or other precautions.

The catastrophe of Hurricane Katrina reminded us that government and other first responders, no matter how efficient and heroic, cannot appear instantly at every point affected by a disaster. Every citizen should be prepared to serve as a first responder for family and neighbors if official or volunteer responders cannot offer immediate assistance.

Encouraging individual responsibility and preparedness to augment government and private organization efforts can reinforce our national response framework to provide truly comprehensive and all-hazards protection.

For promoting readiness, and for all its good works, the American Red Cross deserves the thanks of all Americans and the recognition of Red Cross Month.

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, as a part of National Peace Corps Week, I wish to join many of my colleagues in celebrating the 47th anniversary of the Peace Corps and honoring the important work of Peace Corps volunteers.

During this week, Peace Corps volunteers from around the world who have served over the years will share their overseas experiences with schools and community groups around the United States.

By giving presentations during Peace Corps Week, former Peace Corps volunteers will help Americans better understand the people and cultures they have experienced, and the many benefits of Peace Corps service.

By making presentations in classrooms, former volunteers will help create greater global awareness among students.

The Peace Corps is one of our most effective and successful foreign aid programs.

Since the establishment of the Peace Corps by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, more than 190,000 U.S. citizens, in-

cluding 25,000 from my home State of California, have served their country in the cause of peace by living and working in 139 developing countries.

The world has changed since 1961—and the Peace Corps has succeeded in keeping up with these changes.

While education and agriculture are still an important part of what a Peace Corps volunteer does, today's volunteers also work on HIV/AIDS awareness, information technology, and business development.

Many volunteers work in orphanages with HIV-positive children, implement programs for at-risk youth, and create support groups for HIV-positive people.

Business volunteers conduct seminars on subjects like marketing, strategic planning, and tourism development. They work with women and minority groups to strengthen their participation in the economic system.

Agriculture volunteers may find themselves working with farmers to implement techniques to improve soil quality and conserve water—or on the business end conducting production cost-and-price analyses.

The Peace Corps also assists countries in need by supplying Crisis Corps volunteers—former volunteers who return to the field on a short-term basis. In 2005, for the first time in its history, Peace Corps deployed 272 Crisis Corps volunteers domestically to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts along the gulf coast.

Also in 2005, Crisis Corps volunteers were deployed to Sri Lanka and Thailand to assist with rebuilding tsunami devastated areas, and to Guatemala following Hurricane Stan. As part of PEPFAR, Crisis Corps has deployed volunteers to Uganda, Kenya, Namibia and Zambia. Finally, Crisis Corps is working with Peace Corps posts in Central America and the Caribbean to address disaster preparedness in the region.

Today's Peace Corps is more vital than ever, working in emerging and essential areas such as information technology and business development. They have made significant and lasting contributions around the world in agriculture, education, health, HIV/AIDS, and the environment.

Peace Corps volunteers continue to help countless individuals who want to build a better life for themselves, their children, and their communities.

At a time when the United States is seeking to reclaim the respect and admiration of the world and once again be seen as a champion and a leader of democracy, justice, and human rights, Peace Corps volunteers revitalize faith in this country.

They are leaders and diplomats, and they serve as an inspiration not only to their fellow American citizens but to citizens all across the world.

I urge all my colleagues to support the Peace Corps and celebrate National Peace Corps Week.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate National Peace

Corps Week and to recognize the 47th anniversary of this distinguished organization. Since 1961, the Peace Corps has dispatched over 190,000 volunteers to promote a greater understanding between the United States and the rest of the world.

As part of National Peace Corps Week, returning volunteers will be visiting Washington for several days of events. Many of them will use this opportunity to share their experiences in local classrooms. I heartily applaud these fine men and women for their initiative in seeking to make the world a better place to live and for the positive impact they have had beyond our borders.

Now more than ever, the work of Peace Corps volunteers is an important asset within the diplomatic toolbox of the United States. Their efforts augment official diplomatic acts of our Government and add a personal dimension which could not be duplicated in any other way. When a volunteer travels abroad, they provide others with a glimpse of what it means to be an American and the values we cherish here at home. I encourage all Americans to make the kind of selfless contributions these volunteers provide to the international community. The Peace Corps has proven that individual citizens working together can promote and strengthen the image of the United States.

Peace Corps volunteers inspire us all, and I am proud to say that 213 volunteers from the State of Oregon are currently serving in over 50 developing countries. These Oregonians complement the thousands of others who have served in the Peace Corps, and they brighten our hopes for a better tomorrow. Peace Corps volunteers have shown a level of dedication and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary. I invite all Oregonians, and all Americans, to join me this week in commending their efforts.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I wish to acknowledge Peace Corps volunteers during National Peace Corps Week.

Currently, 25 active U.S. Peace Corps volunteers are from Wyoming. They have joined a unique organization of people who have taken the initiative and make the personal commitment to assist those around the world who are less fortunate.

Peace Corps volunteers are the face of America in many countries. They are often on the frontline in the most primitive of environments, working tirelessly with local leaders to build a better future. Their optimism is often contagious as they assist communities in building infrastructure, developing resources, and improving basic health care, education, and business opportunities.

I commend all the men and women of the Peace Corps for their personal sacrifices. It is not easy to leave behind friends and family and the comforts of home. Yet I often hear that the re-

wards of bringing aid to those suffering from political unrest, natural disasters, disease, and a lack of economic opportunities are well worth it.

The Peace Corps volunteers' reputation as ambassadors of good will demonstrates the ability of individuals to make a difference in the world. Their firsthand knowledge of the challenges people face on a day-to-day basis give those of us in the United States a better understanding of our world. I applaud their efforts and dedication.

I would like to recognize the men and women from Wyoming who are currently serving as U.S. Peace Corps volunteers: Pamela J. Anderson, Jason N. Arnold, Alexandria L. Blute, Katie E. Boysen, Bria M. Chimenti, Joanne A. Cook, Jenna M. Dillon, Heather Dixon, Jeannie M. Freeman, Annie B. Gierhart, Alexis L. Grieve, Daniel J. Healy, Kevin U. Malatesta, Joshua C. Marshall, Korie C. Merrill, Michael O. Nielsen, Katherine G. Oglietti, Kathleen F. Petersen, Rachel L. Petersen, Michael S. Quinn, Garrett C. Schiche, Brian M. Steen, Dayna C. Wolter, Angela E. Zivkovich, and Aaron R. Zueck.

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, I stand before you today to congratulate the Peace Corps on 47 years of service. The Peace Corps was founded on March 1, 1961, when President John F. Kennedy signed an Executive order establishing the Peace Corps as a new Government agency. Over the years, 190,000 volunteers, including nearly 2,700 Georgians, have served in more than 139 countries around the world. Throughout its history, Peace Corps volunteers have responded to the issues of this world with energy, purpose, and compassion.

From February 25 to March 3, 2008, thousands of former Peace Corps volunteers will share their experiences with schools and community groups across the United States during Peace Corps Week. Through these activities, former Peace Corps volunteers will help our citizens better understand the advantages of becoming a Peace Corps volunteer. They will also have the opportunity to educate about the people and cultures they have encountered during their service. Additionally, by making presentations in classrooms, former volunteers will help create greater global awareness among students.

I also want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the late U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell of Georgia, who was my good friend and colleague for many years. As the corps' first post-Cold War director, Paul steered the Peace Corps into a new era. I was pleased the President honored Paul posthumously in 2001 by renaming the Peace Corps headquarters in Washington, DC, as the Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps Headquarters as well as renaming the Peace Corps World Wise Schools program as the Paul D. Coverdell World Wise Schools program. I am proud to support an organization that such a distinguished Georgian was so instrumental in shaping.

I am pleased that the President announced the reopening of a Peace Corps

mission in Rwanda during his visit to the country last week. I believe the Peace Corps will make an important contribution to the recovery of that country.

Today, there are 8,079 Peace Corps volunteers and trainees in 68 posts serving 74 countries. Of those volunteers, 160 are from my home State of Georgia. I want to take this opportunity to thank those Georgians and all Americans who have served in the Peace Corps. The Peace Corps is a critical piece of our diplomatic and humanitarian efforts worldwide. I look forward to supporting the Peace Corps as a Member of the Senate.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I wish to commemorate the past 47 years of service of over 190,000 Peace Corps volunteers who have served our Nation and aided developing nations worldwide. This week our Nation celebrates their contributions toward the elimination of global poverty and disease that continues to deprive millions of people the opportunity to fulfill their goals and dreams.

Henry David Thoreau noted that "One is not born into the world to do everything, but to do something." To do something is the foundation of the Peace Corps' mission. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps to promote peace and friendship and challenged Americans, young and old, to help their Nation and the world by sharing their talents with those in developing countries. Many Americans have heeded his call to service. Currently, approximately 8,000 volunteers serve in 74 countries to help train and provide skills to those in need and act as American cultural ambassadors to those nations. However, their work does not end there.

I am very proud that 261 Peace Corps volunteers from Pennsylvania are currently serving abroad. These men and women will join the ranks of former Pennsylvanian volunteers who continue to leave their mark on the world such as Christina Luongo from Stroudsburg, PA, who served as a nutrition education volunteer in Bolivia from 2002 to 2005; Abigail Calkins, from Philadelphia, PA, who served as a community development volunteer in Cameroon from 1987 to 1990 and is now working at the University of Pennsylvania researching breast and endometrial cancer; and Betrice Grabish, from North Wales, PA, who served as an English teacher in Uzbekistan from 1992 to 1994.

As we celebrate National Peace Corps Week, I would also like to highlight the vital contributions that a predecessor of mine, Senator Harris Wofford, made toward launching the Peace Corps in 1961. As special assistant to President John F. Kennedy, Senator Wofford helped plan and launch the Peace Corps and later moved with his family to Ethiopia, where he served as the Peace Corps' special representative to Africa and director of its Ethiopia program. Ever since, Senator Wofford

has been a leading voice advocating for more Americans to become involved in national service. Committing to serve one's nation is an honor, and I join Senator Wofford in calling on more Americans to make this commitment.

As our world becomes interconnected, more Americans will need to interact with those who live outside our borders. Peace Corps volunteers learn more than 250 languages, which provides them the skills to compete globally as well as assist the U.S. Government in national security areas where critical language skills are essential. Many Peace Corps volunteers go on to serve in Congress, the executive branch, and the Foreign Service. I salute the Peace Corps for its tremendous work and the dedication of its volunteers who have not hesitated to help improve our world. On this week marking the 47th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps, I call on everyone to join me in celebrating its historic achievements.

PRENATALLY AND POSTNATALLY DIAGNOSED CONDITIONS AWARE- NESS ACT

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I am excited and encouraged that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension today voted unanimously to pass the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act. This legislation will help parents receiving the news that their unborn child may be born with a disability by supplying them with current and reliable information about the many services and support networks available. This information will also be made available to parents whose children were diagnosed at birth or up until 12 months of age.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists now recommends that the screening procedure used to detect Down syndrome be offered to all pregnant women, not just those over the age of 35, as was recommended in the past. According to the American Journal of Medical Genetics, 80-90 percent of patients who are told that the child they are carrying has Down syndrome choose to have abortions. The percentage is similarly high for children with other prenatally diagnosable conditions. A recent study by Prenatal Diagnosis actually puts the figure at between 91 to 93 percent.

I believe that one of the main reasons for these disturbingly high figures is that many people in society still believe the outdated stereotypes and misconceptions that continue to exist about people with disabilities. In a study done by Louis Harris and Associates, the vast majority of adults with even the most severe disabilities reported being "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with their lives. The same study shows that there is virtually no difference between the proportion of Americans with disabilities

and those without who are married and who have children. Many people with even the most severe disabilities live independently, have jobs, get married, have children, and pay taxes.

Parent support groups and disability advocacy groups have tried to reach out to parents who have received prenatal diagnoses of various conditions, but they often have difficulty getting practical information about raising a child with a disability and information about available services and resources to new and expecting parents. This bill will help to remediate this situation in five concrete ways.

First, the bill establishes a toll-free resource telephone hotline parents can call after they have been given a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis for their child. The bill also calls for the expansion of the leading information clearinghouse on disability, so that it can more effectively provide parents with accurate, up-to-date information on their child's condition along with available resources and services. The bill also provides for the expansion and development of national and local parent support programs and disability advocacy groups, so that they can more effectively reach out to new parents. A national registry of parents willing to adopt children with these disabilities would also be established under this bill. Finally, this bill will help create awareness and education programs for health care providers who give parents the results of these tests.

It is difficult, sometimes overwhelming, for new and expecting parents to receive the news that their new baby or their unborn child will have a disability. I hope that this bill will provide these parents with the information and support they so desperately need during this critical time. I hope this information will encourage parents that their child can live a meaningful and fulfilling life and that this bill will heighten society's awareness of the capabilities value and worth of people with disabilities.

I would like to thank Senator KENNEDY, Senator ENZI, and all other members of the HELP Committee who have worked so diligently with my office to get this important legislation past the HELP Committee. I am hopeful that this bill will soon receive consideration by the full Senate. The quicker my colleagues and I move to pass this bill, the more people we can help with these critical services and information.

GREEN CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am proud to join my friend Senator SNOWE and our colleagues Senator PRYOR, Senator COLLINS, and Senator KERRY in introducing the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act. This legislation is a bipartisan effort to promote the efforts of some of the most brilliant minds in academia, government, and industry to both reduce the

environmental impacts of common chemical processes and to foster the development of a new generation of environmentally responsible chemical products.

My fellow cosponsors and I seek to help the chemical industry reduce its use and production of hazardous substances and the overall effect on the environment of the business of chemistry. As it was in the past when Senator SNOWE and I previously introduced legislation to promote "Green Chemistry," this legislation is supported by the chemical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology industries and academic institutions because it is designed to hasten the attainment of a goal we all share: making the production of the chemical products we need in ways not detrimental to the environment using engineering processes that save both money and the planet. The products and engineering processes we believe will be developed will produce benefits across the entire economy.

What we call "green chemistry" is nothing more than what every industry in the United States should strive to be. Chemical companies employing green chemistry techniques will challenge their best scientists, engineers, and product developers to make new products that are better suited to the task for which they are created than the products they will replace using state-of-the-art manufacturing that minimizes or completely eliminates both the use of environmentally unsustainable substances as inputs or results in environmentally unsustainable substances as byproducts. Our purpose in introducing this legislation is to make certain that the nascent green technology revolution does not bypass the chemical industry by providing significant and ongoing support for green chemistry research, development, demonstration, education, and technology transfer.

When enacted, the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act will create a Federal Interagency Working Group—made up of representatives from the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency—to fund and oversee research through merit-based grants to universities, industry, and nonprofit organizations to promote the development and adoption of green chemistry processes and products. Further, the Interagency Working Group will help expand education, training in, and the flow of information about sustainable chemical engineering, including development of green chemistry curricula for undergraduate and graduate students. Finally, Federal resources in funding and technical expertise will seek to identify barriers to the commercialization of the products of a rejuvenated, more environmentally responsible domestic chemical industry.

These are challenging times for the domestic chemical industry. High