

Suddenly Sleepy Saturday is an effort to lead the estimated 65,000 Americans who are living with undiagnosed narcolepsy to a proper diagnosis and treatment. This day of awareness will allow for expanding knowledge of life with narcolepsy and will allow participating communities to better support people who struggle with the challenges of this chronic neurological disorder. I am pleased that many South Dakotans, including those in Aberdeen, SD, will be commemorating Suddenly Sleepy Saturday and raising awareness of narcolepsy.

I urge all citizens to support the search for the cause, cure, and prevention of narcolepsy and assist those individuals and families who deal with this devastating disorder on a daily basis.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on March 8 we will commemorate International Women's Day, which, since 1911, has given us an opportunity to pause and assess the status of women worldwide. Since that time, we have seen great achievements by women in many parts of the world. The last century began with women in the United States fighting for the right to vote, while today we see the first real chance that a woman will be elected President.

While substantial progress has been made here and in other countries, millions of women around the world continue to live in poverty and fear. Women are denied decent health care, denied economic opportunities, denied education, and denied security for themselves and their children. Women face epidemic levels of violence. One in three women worldwide will experience gender-based violence in her lifetime. In some countries, that is true for 70 percent of women. No country is immune. From the trafficking of women in Eastern Europe, to "honor" killings in the Middle East, to the use of rape as a weapon of war in Darfur and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, violence against women and girls crosses all borders and affects women in all social groups, religions and socioeconomic classes.

A recently released survey of 1,500 women in Iraq by Women for Women International indicates that women there are suffering high levels of violence. The survey found that 63.9 percent of those surveyed believe that violence against women is increasing for reasons including lack of respect for women's rights and a worsening economy. The report quotes a police chief in the southern city of Basra who says that "[r]eligious vigilantes have killed at least 40 women this year . . . because of how they dressed, their mutilated bodies found with notes warning against 'violating Islamic teachings.'"

Violence has a profound impact on the health and development of countries worldwide. Violence against women and girls violates their basic

human rights. It impedes women's full and active participation in their communities and societies. And it limits our effort to foster development around the world. Violence prevents girls from going to school, stops women from holding jobs, and limits access to critical health care for women and their children. We can't eradicate poverty and disease unless we prevent and respond to the violence women face in their own homes and communities. And we can't empower women to become active in civic life and promote peace, prosperity and democracy unless they personally are free from fear of violence. It is no surprise, then, that at this year's World Economic Forum, Secretary Rice stated that if she could focus on one thing in developing countries, it would be the empowerment of women.

Violence against women is a global health crisis, not just because so many women and girls are injured and die but also because the violence interferes with efforts to save the lives of pregnant women and babies. Rape increases vulnerability to HIV-AIDS transmission. In sub-Saharan Africa alone, women account for close to three-quarters of those living with HIV-AIDS between the ages 18 and 24.

The picture is grim and can be discouraging. But the good news is that local organizations are working in communities around the world with courage, sensitivity, and success to help women overcome violence at home, in school, and at work. Governments are bringing together all sectors of their country to try to prevent and end abuse. But they need our help.

We have made tremendous progress in reducing violence against women here in the United States since we passed the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, in 1994. It is time to throw our weight and leadership behind efforts to help women and their families worldwide lead safer, healthier lives. Stopping gender-based violence isn't just the moral thing to do; it is also smart diplomacy since violence contributes to the poverty, inequality, and instability that threaten our security.

Last fall, Senator LUGAR and I introduced S. 2279, the International Violence Against Women Act. This groundbreaking, bipartisan legislation would ensure that our foreign assistance programs include efforts to end gender-based violence.

We would accomplish this goal in three ways:

First, we propose to reorganize and rejuvenate the gender-related efforts of the State Department by creating one central office—the Office for Women's Global Initiatives, directed by a Senate-confirmed Ambassador who reports directly to the Secretary of State. The coordinator will monitor and coordinate all U.S. resources, programs, and aid abroad that deal with women's issues, including gender-based violence. This centralization will ensure the most efficient use of taxpayer funds.

Second, we mandate a 5-year, comprehensive strategy to combat violence against women in 10 to 20 targeted countries. We would allocate \$175 million a year to support programs dealing with violence against women in five areas: the criminal and civil justice system, health care, access to education and school safety, women's economic empowerment, and public awareness campaigns that change social norms.

Third, we know through terrible experience that women and girls are especially vulnerable to violence in humanitarian crises and in conflict and postconflict situations. Reports of refugee women being raped while collecting firewood, soldiers sexually abusing girls through bribery with token food items, or women subjected to torture as a tool of war are horrific. The act requires training for workers and peacekeeping forces and establishes reporting mechanisms and other emergency measures.

The issue of violence against women and girls is complex, and our legislation is ambitious. We are mindful that no country has a perfect record or all the answers. Yet Congress has a long and proud history of tackling complex international problems, most recently the epidemic of HIV-AIDS and the crime of human trafficking.

Former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said "Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. And it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equity, development and peace." We could not agree more. Our International Violence Against Women Act brings together, for the first time, coordinated American resources and leadership to this global issue.

We believe the time is now for the United States to get actively engaged in the fight for women's lives and girls' futures. There is no better way to commemorate International Women's Day.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION REFORM ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to express my complete support for H.R. 4040, the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act, which passed the Senate yesterday with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. Regrettably, I was unable to vote on final passage of H.R. 4040, as I had a previous commitment that prevented me from being there. However, I believe so strongly in the Government's responsibility to maintain the highest level of product safety that I wanted the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect how pleased I am that the Senate passed H.R. 4040, after substituting the text of S. 2663 as amended, and to extend my congratulations to the bill's principal

sponsors, Senator MARK PRYOR and Senator TED STEVENS.

Throughout the past few years, our Nation has experienced an unfortunately large number of recalls on products that have been imported into our country. Of particular concern to me, and to many of my colleagues, as well as to parents and all citizens across the country are the millions of children's toys that were recalled due to dangerous levels of lead and other toxins or dangerously defective product design or manufacture. These recalls left many parents wondering whether any of the toys they purchased for their children were safe. It was time for the Senate to work together to protect America's consumers and children, and with the passage of H.R. 4040, we have done that and, I believe, done it well.

Much blame has been placed on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, for failing to adequately protect consumers from dangerous products entering the United States. Whether this was being too lax with regard to negligible product safety standards for toys and other items produced abroad, or ineffective and often toothless oversight of the manufacturing and design process wherever the toys were made, there is more than enough blame to spread around. While I certainly recognize the important contributions of the dedicated career employees at the CPSC, it is clear that the CPSC lacks the adequate resources, and political will, to combat this growing problem.

With the passage of H.R. 4040, the Senate has taken a very good step toward addressing many of the problems we have seen in recent years by increasing funding for the CPSC, increasing penalties for manufacturers that violate consumer protection laws, reducing the levels of lead in children's products, requiring labeling so that parents can know when their children's toys have been recalled, and allowing State attorneys general to help enforce Federal consumer protection laws for the benefit of citizens throughout West Virginia and across the Nation.

Mr. President, again I would like to express my support for H.R. 4040, as amended by the remark on March 6, 2008, and thank my colleagues for all of their hard work to pass legislation that will better protect consumers and children from dangerous products.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate passed S. 2663, the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Act, by an overwhelming margin of 79 to 13. This significant legislation has the potential to benefit every consumer and, most notably, protect America's children.

Imagine the heartbroken look on a child's face when a favorite toy is confiscated because it's unsafe.

Then try to imagine the much greater pain felt by a parent whose child has been poisoned or injured or even killed by an unsafe toy.

So far this year, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC, has issued no fewer than six toy recalls

just due to lead paint safety violations. These recalls affect over 75,000 toys. There were 473 recalls last year. In fact, as a few of my distinguished colleagues have noted, one of the "must-have" toys last year, AquaDots, was recalled just prior to the holidays—and for good reason. The Dots contained a potentially coma-inducing toxic coating.

American consumers have the right to expect that the products they buy are safe. The CPSC should be able to provide that assurance. Unfortunately, in recent years, we have seen numerous examples when the CPSC has not been up to the job.

The CPSC has suffered from the antiregulatory zeal that has been popular in recent years. Products under the Commission's jurisdiction cause more than 28,000 deaths and 33.6 million injuries each year, but funding for CPSC has been slashed and the staff is half the size it was 30 years ago.

The bill the Senate has passed will strengthen the CPSC by giving it the staff, enforcement powers, and other resources it needs to monitor a rapidly changing and ever-expanding global marketplace. S. 2663 will give American consumers—89 percent of whom are aware of the recent recalls—greater peace of mind.

S. 2663 provides critical budget and staffing resources necessary to provide for increased safety monitoring. The bill bans lead from children's products and subjects all toys to comprehensive hazard testing. And it mandates independent testing of many children's products. But all the increased testing and regulations in the world are only as good as the ability to back them up with meaningful penalties for violators. So S. 2663 increases the per-violation civil penalties cap to help deter violations.

I am grateful to the bill managers for including my amendment—No. 4103—to address the issue of training standards for safety inspectors. S. 2663 nearly doubles current funding levels over the next 7 years—which I think is a good idea. And it increases the CPSC staff to at least 500 by 2013—which I also think is a good idea. But if there is going to be a rapid expansion of the staff, I think it would be useful for the CPSC to develop training standards for product safety inspectors and technical staff and to consult with a broad range of consumer product safety organizations in developing those standards. My amendment merely directs the CPSC to develop such standards—again, in consultation with groups that have expertise in such matters—within 180 days of enactment and to submit a report to Congress on the standards.

I am also grateful the bill managers included an amendment, No. 4113, Senator OBAMA and I introduced to clarify, expand, and standardize the information contained in recall notices.

We have passed a bill that will help keep dangerous products off store shelves, out of our homes, and out of the hands of our children and grandchildren. We have passed a bill that

will help restore consumer confidence in product safety. I am proud the Senate has passed this legislation, and I congratulate the bill managers—Senators PRYOR, STEVENS, INOUE and COLLINS—for crafting it and bringing it to the floor with such broad, bipartisan support.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I wish to speak on the Consumer Product Safety Commission Reform Bill, which the Senate passed earlier today. I was pleased to cast my vote in support of this important bipartisan bill, and I thank Senators PRYOR and STEVENS for their hard work in bringing this measure to the floor.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission, or CPSC, is one of our Nation's most important Federal agencies. The Commission's principal responsibility entails protecting Americans from risks associated with products sold in the United States. Each year, it develops and enforces safety standards for thousands of goods. These goods range from toys to housewares.

We live in an age of increasing global trade. Consequently, the activities of the CPSC here become more important, as Americans purchase and consume a greater number of products manufactured in foreign nations. In order to meet these expanded responsibilities, the CPSC requires enhanced resources and authorities. I am pleased that the bill passed today provides these enhanced resources and authorities.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reform bill includes new safety standards for a variety of products, including cigarette lighters, furniture, swimming pools, equestrian helmets, portable gasoline containers, strollers, and cribs. It strengthens the certification of safety-standard compliance, establishes more stringent standards on lead in paint, reforms third-party testing for product safety and compliance, and increases civil and/or criminal penalties for noncompliance. The bill also increases CPSC personnel in major ports-of-entry, prohibits CPSC personnel from taking industry-sponsored travel, prohibits the sale of products that are the subject of a recall, expands jurisdiction of the CPSC to cover amusement park rides at a fixed site, and fosters greater coordination among the various agencies involved in consumer safety issues.

Further, the legislation doubles the current CPSC authorization level for fiscal year 2009 to \$88,500,000, and increases the level to \$155,900,000 by fiscal year 2015. This bill also authorizes \$40 million for fiscal year 2009 for the improvement of the Commission's research, development, and testing facilities, and also provides \$1 million for fiscal year 2009 for research into safety issues related to the use of nanotechnology in consumer products.

I am particularly pleased that the bill contains two provisions that I

worked to advance regarding new CPSC safety standards for swimming pool drains and equestrian helmets. These standards are vital towards protecting children against accidental drowning and horse-related injuries respectively. I was pleased to work with my colleagues on the Commerce Committee in drafting these standards and incorporating them into the bill.

In closing, I believe the Consumer Product Safety Commission reform bill will allow the CPSC to fulfill its responsibility of protecting Americans more effectively, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on future such legislation.

REMEMBERING EVE CARSON

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to honor the life of Miss Eve Carson, student body president at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Miss Carson's life was tragically cut short on Wednesday morning.

I send my deepest condolences to Eve's family, the Chapel Hill community, and all those who came to know of her service and compassion for others.

Eve Marie Carson was born to Bob Carson and Teresa Bethke in Athens, Georgia, on November 19, 1985. She attended Clarke Central High School, where she served as student body president.

Eve enrolled at UNC in the fall of 2004 as a recipient of the prestigious Morehead Scholarship. Miss Carson left an indelible mark on the university and its community during her 3½ years in college.

Eve excelled as a student at the University of North Carolina. She was a political science and biology major and hoped to attend medical school next year. Miss Carson was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society and served as a North Carolina Fellow.

Eve was dedicated to helping those around her. She taught science at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School in Chapel Hill and tutored kids at Githens Middle School in Durham.

She served as cochair of Nourish International, a hunger-relief group, and an assistant coach in the Girls on the Run of the Triangle, a character-building program.

She studied abroad in Cuba and spent her summers helping others in Ecuador, Egypt, and Ghana. Her compassion and hard work seemed to know no bounds.

Mr. President, Eve Carson was a special woman who will be missed. Her passing leaves a void in a community who knew her as an intelligent, hardworking, compassionate leader who loved helping others.

Again, I extend my heartfelt sympathy to Eve's family, friends, and all those who benefitted from her compassion and service.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HOOSIER ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today I share with my colleagues the winners of the 2007-2008 Dick Lugar/Indiana Farm Bureau/Farm Bureau Insurance Companies Youth Essay Contest.

In 1985, I joined with the Indiana Farm Bureau to sponsor an essay contest for 8th grade students in my home State. The purpose of this contest is to encourage young Hoosiers to recognize and appreciate the importance of Indiana agriculture in their lives and subsequently craft an essay responding to the assigned theme. I, along with my friends at the Indiana Farm Bureau and Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, am pleased with the annual response to this contest and the quality of the essays received over the years.

I congratulate Jansen Hight, of Owen County, and Leah Lahue, of Crawford County, as winners of this year's contest, and I ask that the complete text of their respective essays be printed in the RECORD. Likewise, I would like to have printed in the RECORD the names of all of the district and county winners of the 2007-2008 Dick Lugar/Indiana Farm Bureau/Farm Bureau Insurance Companies Youth Essay Contest.

The material follows.

ENERGY AWARE—ENERGY INDEPENDENT

(By Jansen Hight)

Today our world runs mainly on fossil fuels. Therefore, what are we going to do when all the fossil fuels are gone? This limit of non-renewable fuel resources is why we should start considering the use of alternative energy sources. Some of the best-known alternative fuels include biodiesel, butanol, ethanol, chemically-stored electricity, methane, biomass, hydrogen, natural gas, vegetable oil, and peanut oil (just to name a few).

A wide variety of alternative energy sources are being developed to aid our rural economies and our nation's security. With nearly 60 percent of our oil resources coming from other countries, it is important that we develop our own dependable sources of energy. Due to the lack of resources to produce substantial amounts of energy from other sources such as solar and wind power, biofuels are the best resource for Indiana to pursue energy independence.

With Indiana being a strong agricultural state, Indiana has the ability to be a leader in the production and use of domestic renewable fuels including biodiesel, ethanol, and fuels made from cellulosic biomass. Regardless of the type of alternative fuels being produced by Indiana farmers, one common advantage these fuels have is they improve our energy resources since they all can be made from sources other than imported petroleum. By using home-grown sources for fuel, this would also increase the local demand for Indiana soybeans and corn, leading to a better profit for the farmer. This profit can then be circulated back into the local community.

Indiana does have the agricultural resources to be a leader in developing a strong biofuels industry. With the cooperative efforts of biofuel users, petroleum companies, and the government, our Indiana farmers can lead the way for a sustainable energy future

that supports rural economies and aids our nation's security.

UNTITLED

(By Leah Lahue)

Alternative energy sources include: solar, water, wind, geo-thermal, and bio-fuels. Alternative energy use reduces the dependence on foreign oil, reduces harmful emissions, and uses renewable resources. Protecting our environment and slowing the use of non-renewable petroleum reserves are good choices for everyone.

Bio-fuels are produced directly from plants or indirectly from organic industrial, commercial, domestic, or agricultural wastes. Three ways to make bio-fuels are burning dry organic waste, using fast growing trees, and fermenting wet materials. Partly digested cellulose and carbohydrates—animal manure can be burnt in dry form or processed into biogas. Bio-fuel comes from corn, sugarcane, wheat, rice, sorghum, sunflowers, potatoes, and sugar beets. One bushel of corn produces 2.8 gallons of ethanol. Bio-fuel, a renewable resource, reduces dependence on foreign oil and carbon dioxide emissions. With 20 parts bio-diesel and 80 parts petroleum, bio-diesel is environmentally safer. Critics are concerned that the major use of grain as bio-fuels may increase food prices. Unused croplands and continually improving farm methods can meet increased demands without food price increases. Food prices are driven up more by increased gas prices than prices paid to farmers.

Solar energy, waterpower and wind energy are clean, nature-provided alternative energy sources, especially for electricity. Solar energy, collected by solar panels, which may be placed on cars and buildings and in open spaces, can be used for heat and to power batteries and other equipment. Falling water and wind turn turbines and electrical equipment. The energy from the turbines can be stored and used as electricity and as a heat source. Alternative energy sources, especially bio-fuels, are good choices. Farmers can raise the crops used to produce bio-fuels in mass quantities. Renewable alternative energy sources are generally cleaner, reduce emissions, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil, keeping our financial resources in America.

2007-2008 DISTRICT ESSAY WINNERS

DISTRICT 1

Schuyler Awald, Walkerton; Stefanie McGovern, Winamac.

DISTRICT 2

Joshua Garcia, Auburn; Jordan Hartleroad, Butler.

DISTRICT 3

Ayren Cobb, Otterbein; Chad Griffin, Cutler.

DISTRICT 4

Tyler Barnes, Kokomo; Mariah Hornaday, Portland.

DISTRICT 5

Ross Smith, Pittsboro; Abby Garner, Covington.

DISTRICT 6

Cody Short, Centerville; Rebekah Bales, Lewisville.

DISTRICT 7

Sarah Anne Foley, Unionville; Jansen Hight, Spencer.

DISTRICT 8

Karina Collins, Columbus; Bret Rosenberger, Brookville.

DISTRICT 9

Leah Lahue, Leavenworth; Jacob Newmaster, Elberfeld.