

S. 2760

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2760, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to enhance the national defense through empowerment of the National Guard, enhancement of the functions of the National Guard Bureau, and improvement of Federal-State military coordination in domestic emergency response, and for other purposes.

S. 2771

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2771, a bill to require the president to call a White House Conference on Children and Youth in 2010.

S. 2775

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2775, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Social Security Act to treat certain domestically controlled foreign persons performing services under contract with the United States Government as American employers for purposes of certain employment taxes and benefits.

S. 2785

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2785, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Security Act to preserve access to physicians' services under the Medicare program.

S. 2819

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 2819, a bill to preserve access to Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program during an economic downturn, and for other purposes.

S. 2839

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SUNUNU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2839, a bill to provide emergency relief for United States businesses and industries currently employing temporary foreign workers and for other purposes.

S. 2840

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2840, a bill to establish a liaison with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to expedite naturalization applications filed by members of the Armed Forces and to establish a deadline for processing such applications.

S. 2844

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from Massa-

chusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2844, a bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to modify provisions relating to beach monitoring, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 500

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. OBAMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 500, a resolution honoring military children during "National Month of the Military Child".

S. RES. 506

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Nebraska, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 506, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that funding provided by the United States to the Government of Iraq in the future for reconstruction and training for security forces be provided as a loan to the Government of Iraq.

S. RES. 513

At the request of Mrs. DOLE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 513, a resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2858. A bill to establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues associated with recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, in honor of World Social Work Day, I rise today to introduce the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act. I am proud to sponsor this legislation that will improve the shortage of social workers as we move into an era of unprecedented healthcare and social service needs. Social workers play a critical role combating the social problems facing our Nation. We must have the workforce in place to make sure that our returning soldiers have access to mental health services, our elderly maintain their independence in the communities they live in, and abused children are placed in safe homes. This bill reinvests in social workers by providing grants to social workers, reviewing the current social workforce challenges, and determining how this shortage will affect the communities

social workers serve. I am honored to introduce this bill named after two social visionaries, Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young. Dorothy Height, a pioneer of the civil rights movement, like me began her career as a case worker and continued to fight for social justice. Whitney Young, another trailblazer of the civil rights movement, also began his career transforming our social landscape as a social worker. He helped create President Johnson's War on Poverty and has served as President of the National Association of Social Workers. Congressman TOWNS introduced the companion bill in the House of Representatives last month.

As a social worker, I understand the critical role social workers place in the overall care of our populations. Social workers can be found in every facet of community life—in hospitals, mental health clinics, senior centers, and private agencies that serve individuals and families in need. Social workers are there to help struggling students, returning soldiers, and chronically ill. Oftentimes, social workers are the only available option for mental health care in rural and underserved urban areas. The number of adults over the age of 65 will double by the year 2030 and social workers will be at the forefront of providing compassionate care to this burgeoning community. Yet there will not be enough social workers to meet these needs. Today 30,000 social workers specialize in gerontology, but we will need 70,000 of these social workers by 2010. I want to make sure that when the aging tsunami hits us, we have the workforce in place to care for our aging family members, the Alzheimer patients, the disabled.

This bill is about reinvesting in social work. It provides grants that invest in social work education, research, and training. These grants will fund community based programs of excellence and provide scholarships to train the next generation of social workers. The bill also addresses how to recruit and retain new social workers, research the impact of social services, and foster ways to improve social workplace safety. This bill establishes a national coordination center that will allow social education, advocacy and research institutions to collaborate and work together. It will facilitate gathering and distributing social work research to make the most effective use of the information we have on how social work service can improve our social fabric. This bill also gives social work the attention it deserves. It creates a media campaign that will promote social work, and recognizes March as Social Work Awareness Month.

As a social worker, I have been on the frontlines of helping people cope with issues in their everyday lives. I started off fighting for abused children, making sure they were placed in safe homes. Today I am a social worker with power. I am proud to continue to fight every day for the long range

needs of the Nation, on the floor of the United States Senate and as the Chairwoman of the Aging Subcommittee of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee.

I believe that social work is full of great opportunities, both to serve and to lead. Social work is about putting our values into action. Social workers are our best and brightest, our most committed and compassionate. They are at the frontlines of providing care, often putting themselves in dangerous and violent situations. Social workers have the ability to provide psychological, emotional, and social support—quite simply, the ability to change lives. That is why we must reinvest in social work—we must recruit, retain and research. I think we can do better by our Nation's troops, seniors, and children, by making sure we have the social workforce in place to meet their needs. I'm fighting to make sure we do.

The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act is strongly supported by the National Association of Social Workers and the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research. I want to thank Senators STABENOW, SMITH, and INOUE for their cosponsorship of this bill.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this important piece of legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that letters of support be printed in the RECORD.

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

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
SOCIAL WORKERS,
Washington, DC.

We, the undersigned professional social work organizations, join with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in showing our full support for the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act. Social workers provide indispensable services in nearly every community nationwide and to millions of Americans including aging baby boomers, wounded veterans, former prisoners, at-risk students, abused and neglected children, and those diagnosed with cancer, serious mental illness, and those with HIV and AIDS. These essential services have a positive impact on the mental, social, and psychosocial functioning of clients across the country. While professional social workers are more necessary today than at any other time in our history, they are also facing barriers that challenge the profession including insurmountable education debt, insufficient salaries, and serious safety concerns.

The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act takes important steps to ensure the future viability of the social work profession. The legislation explores the many successful efforts already undertaken by our nation's social workers, while examining the persistent challenges to these efforts. A Social Work Reinvestment Commission will provide a comprehensive analysis of current workforce trends and develop long-term recommendations and strategies to maximize the ability of America's social workers to serve their clients with expertise and care. Demonstration programs will be funded in the areas of

workplace improvements, research, education and training, and community-based programs of excellence. This investment will be returned many times over both in support for effective social service solutions and in direct services to client populations.

The Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act is a commitment to ensure that social workers can provide indispensable services for years to come. The future of the profession depends on the measures that are taken toward reinvestment today. We thank Senator Mikulski for her dedication to and leadership of the social work profession and urge every member of the Senate to show their support for professional social workers as well as the individuals, groups, and communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Action Network for Social Work Education and Research, Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors, Association of Oncology Social Work, Clinical Social Work Association, Council on Social Work Education, Group for the Advancement of Doctoral Education in Social Work, Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research, National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work, Social Welfare Action Alliance, Society for Social Work and Research.

INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH,
Washington, DC, April 12, 2008.

Hon. BARBARA MIKULSKI,
U.S. Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MIKULSKI: As the Institute for the Advancement of Social Work Research (IASWR) celebrates its 15th anniversary, this is an important opportunity to recognize the strides that have been made in knowledge development and research infrastructure development in social work over the past decade and one half. However, the growing demands for social work services, the focus on implementation of evidence-based practices, and the need to address both recruitment and retention of professional social workers, requires that there be enhanced federal investments in the social work profession. As the number of children in foster care rises, as our population ages, as school drop-out rates increase, and as deployed soldiers and returning veterans require expanded access to health, mental health and social services, the need for professional social workers at all levels of practice and in all fields of practice has never been greater.

IASWR would like to thank you for standing with your profession in introducing the Dorothy I. Height/Whitney M. Young Social Work Reinvestment Act in the Senate. This Act is one important step in addressing workplace and workforce issues faced by social workers. It will also provide discretionary grants to implement best practice models in social agencies and it provides incentive programs to attract the next generation of social work practitioners and social work researchers. Of particular importance will be the Social Work Reinvestment Commission that will examine critical issues and potential solutions facing the profession today.

As a social worker, I know that you recognize the challenges faced by the social work profession, including low salaries, high caseloads, lack of access to the latest technology to facilitate service delivery, shrinking availability of services, and concerns about safety. The Social Work Reinvestment Act begins to address these concerns.

Thank you for all of your leadership and commitment to social work and to the mil-

lions of vulnerable individuals, families and communities that we work with daily. IASWR and the social work research community stands ready to work with you. If you have questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

JOAN LEVY ZLOTNIK,
Executive Director.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today, on World Social Work Day, to introduce the Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr. Social Work Reinvestment Act. I am pleased to be joined by my colleagues Senator BARBARA MIKULSKI and Senator DEBBIE STABENOW in supporting this important legislation to help ensure the sustainability of the social work field. I look forward to continuing our collaboration on this bill and other efforts to support the tremendous work of our nation's social workers as they ensure the safety and welfare of our citizens in need of guidance and protection.

Social workers in America face an array of issues that impact their ability to stay in the profession. We know that as the U.S. population increases and ages, caseworkers' caseloads continue to increase, causing greater pressure to perform with ever decreasing resources. Further, relatively low wages make it difficult for social workers to stay in their profession long-term. These are just a few of the many challenges they face. Those in the social work field need our support in creating innovative ways to keep them in the profession they love and therefore help the people in our communities who need their expertise and compassion.

Unfortunately, my home State of Oregon is not immune to these problems. We all know of the wonderful work that social workers do to protect children from abuse and neglect. Particularly in parts of Oregon where Methamphetamine abuse has caused widespread suffering, social workers have risen to the occasion to ensure children get the help that they need. However, less recognized is the work that they do on behalf of our elderly. About 13 percent of Oregon's population is persons over the age of 65, which is above the national average of about 12.4 percent. This number is expected to increase dramatically in coming years as our population continues to age, our seniors live longer and we see more of our elderly with multiple chronic conditions. Many of these elderly will depend on the help and guidance of social workers to ensure their well being.

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me, Senator MIKULSKI and Senator STABENOW in championing this legislation to support the needs of our social workers. I look forward to its swift passage.

By Mr. WEBB (for himself and
Mr. WARNER):

S. 2859. A bill to amend the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 to clarify limits on disclosure of student health records, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2859

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Amendments of 2008”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Federal authorities charged with examining the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech in April 2007 found that confusion and overly-restrictive interpretations of Federal privacy laws, State medical confidentiality laws, and regulations unnecessarily impede the effective transfer of information that could prove useful in averting tragedies. Some school administrators are unaware of exceptions to Federal privacy laws that could allow relevant information about a student's mental health to be appropriately shared.

(2) The purpose of this Act is to eliminate ambiguity in Federal education privacy law to ensure that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is not interpreted as prohibiting information sharing between on-campus and off-campus health care providers when both are involved in treating a student. Such “consults” are generally permitted by State medical confidentiality law, and FERPA should not be interpreted as posing an additional obstacle. The Virginia Tech Review Panel recommended that changes to “FERPA should explicitly explain how it applies to medical records held for treatment purposes”. The panel reported that misinterpretation of how student treatment records are handled under FERPA as the main source of confusion. FERPA protects the privacy of both student education records and student treatment records from being disclosed generally.

(3) The Virginia Tech Review Panel recommended that Federal privacy laws should be amended to include “safe harbor” provisions that would insulate a person or organization from the loss of Federal education funding for making a disclosure with a good faith belief that the disclosure was necessary to protect the health or safety of a student or member of the public at large. The Commission further recommended that the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) be amended to clarify the ability of educational institutions to disclose information in emergency situations and to facilitate treatment of students at off-campus facilities.

(4) Mental disorders frequently begin during youth. Research supported by the National Institute of Mental Health found that half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14; three quarters have begun by age 24.

(5) In 2004, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 4,316 suicides among young adults aged 15-24, making it the third leading cause of death in this age group. There were an additional 5,074 suicides among those aged 25-34, making it the second leading cause of death in this age group.

(6) Depression, mental illness, and suicide are problems on college campuses. In 2006, 44 percent of college students reported feeling so depressed it was difficult to func-

tion and 9 percent seriously considered suicide, according to a 2006 national survey conducted by the American College Health Association.

(7) While most people in the United States with a mental disorder eventually seek treatment, a National Institute of Mental Health study found pervasive and lengthy delays in getting treatment, with the median delay across disorders being nearly a decade. Over a 12-month period, 60 percent of those with a mental disorder got no treatment at all.

(8) A 2006 survey sponsored by the American College Counseling Association found that 9 percent of enrolled students sought counseling last year and 92 percent of counseling center directors reported an increase in the number of students with severe psychological disorders.

(9) Recent events, including the campus shootings at the Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois universities, have further highlighted the deadly problems of mental illness and violence in American schools. The Northern Illinois shooting resulted in 6 deaths while the Virginia Tech killings left 32 people dead, making it the most lethal school shooting in United States history.

SEC. 3. STUDENT HEALTH RECORDS.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) CONSULTATION WITH OFF CAMPUS MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized healthcare professional or paraprofessional acting in the individual's professional or paraprofessional capacity, or assisting in that capacity, from consulting with or disclosing records described in subsection (a)(4)(B)(iv) with respect to a student, to a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized healthcare professional or paraprofessional acting in the individual's professional or paraprofessional capacity, or assisting in that capacity, outside the educational agency or institution in connection with the provision of treatment to the student.”

SEC. 4. SAFE HARBOR PROVISION.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g) is amended in subsection (f) by adding at the end the following: “The release by an educational agency or institution of education records or personally identifiable information contained in such records in the good faith belief that such release is necessary to protect against a potential threat to the health or safety of the student or other persons, shall not be deemed a failure to comply with this section regardless of whether it is subsequently determined that the specified conditions for such release did not exist.”

SEC. 5. EMERGENCY EXCEPTION AMENDMENT.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. 1232g) is amended in subsection (b)(1)(I) by striking “is necessary” and all that follows and inserting “is necessary, according to the good faith belief of the educational agency or institution or persons to whom such disclosure is made, to protect against a potential threat to the health or safety of the student or other persons; and”.

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. 2864. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to include improvement in quality of life in the objectives of training and rehabilitation for veterans with service-connected disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I am introducing today the proposed Training and Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans Enhancement Act of 2008. This measure would make two small but, I believe, necessary changes in the Department of Veterans' Affairs program of Independent Living services conducted under the authority of chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code.

VA's IL Program was first established in 1980 by Public Law 96-466, the Veterans Rehabilitation and Education Amendments of 1980. Initially, that law provided for the establishment of a 4-year pilot program designed to provide independent living services for severely disabled veterans for whom the achievement of a vocational goal was not reasonably feasible. The number of veterans who could be accepted annually into the pilot program was capped at 500. In 1986, the program was extended through 1989 and then, in 1989, it was made in Public Law 101-237, the Veterans' Benefits Amendments of 1989. In 2001, the 500 annual cap on enrollees was increased to 2,500.

The measure I am introducing would remove any cap on the number of enrollees in any year. In earlier years, as a pilot project, the cap may have been appropriate in order to give VA an opportunity to manage the program in the most effective manner possible and in 2001, it made sense to increase that cap in light of the increased demand and need for the program.

Now, however, it makes sense to lift the cap altogether. This is especially so since this important program is designed to meet the needs of the most severely service-connected disabled veterans and more and more of those returning from combat have suffered the kind of devastating injuries that may make employment not reasonably feasible for extended periods of time.

The VA's Inspector General found, in a report issued in December of last year, that “the effect of the statutory cap has been to delay IL services to severely disabled veterans.” This delay happens because VA has developed a procedure that holds veterans in a planning and evaluation stage when the statutory cap may be in danger of being exceeded.

The bill I am introducing today would eliminate the cap entirely as recommended by VA's IG. It would also make the program mandatory rather than a discretionary pilot effort and would include improvement in quality of life an objective of training and rehabilitation for veterans with service-connected disability who are participating in programs of IL services. For these veterans—with respect to whom it has been determined that employment is not a present, reasonably feasible option but one that may be feasible in the future—it seems appropriate to look not only at future employment prospects but also toward improving the individual's quality of

life. Such an approach may very well lead to bettering an individual's chances of rehabilitation and future employment.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2864

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Training and Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans Enhancement Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF LIFE AS OBJECTIVE OF TRAINING AND REHABILITATION FOR VETERANS WITH SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITIES.

(a) INCLUSION IN SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE UNDER TRAINING AND REHABILITATION.—Section 3104(a)(15) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and to improve a veteran's quality of life".

(b) INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE.—

(1) ENTITLEMENT OF CERTAIN VETERANS.—Section 3109 of such title is amended by inserting before the period at the end the following: "and to improve such veteran's quality of life".

(2) PROGRAM OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE.—Section 3120 of such title is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "may" and inserting "shall"; and

(B) in subsection (d), by inserting before the period at the end of the first sentence the following: "and to improve such veteran's quality of life".

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF VETERANS ENROLLED IN PROGRAMS OF INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE.

Section 3120 of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 2 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) by striking subsection (e); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (e).

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2865. A bill to permit qualified withdrawals from a capital construction fund account under chapter 535 of title 46, United States Code, for gear or equipment required for fishery conservation or safety of life at sea without regard to the minimum cost requirement established by regulation; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Fisheries Capital Construction Fund Enhancement Act of 2008. This bill will help alleviate the potentially devastating economic impacts of recent regulations on the lobster industry issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, and simultaneously encourage conservation in our Nation's fisheries and enhance the safety of the men and women who make their living at America's most dangerous profession.

On October 5, 2007, the National Marine Fisheries Service, or NMFS, issued

new regulations that will require "fixed gear" fishermen along the Atlantic Seaboard, including lobstermen, to use sinking groundline to connect their traps in large areas of the Gulf of Maine beginning next fall. The rules are intended to prevent entanglements of endangered whales in fishing gear. By NMFS's own estimates, this rule will impose annual costs of approximately \$14 million on our fisheries, over 90 percent of which will be borne by the lobster industry. But a report issued by the Government Accountability Office in August 2007 found the agency's economic analysis to be insufficient, and that it could not estimate the extent to which these costly measures would protect whales. While we must protect our endangered species, it is senseless to impose ineffective measures on an already struggling industry.

These regulations are particularly concerning given the additional hardships our fishing communities currently face, especially down east where lobster plays an integral role in the regional economy. The groundfish industry, once the lifeblood of this region, is now virtually non-existent, with just one active permit remaining east of Penobscot Bay. Lobster has been the lone bright spot in recent years, with annual landings throughout the state in the neighborhood of \$300 million. Unfortunately, early returns for 2007 have declined by more than 20 percent from the record highs of 2005 and 2006, and with fuel and bait prices at record highs, the harvest numbers already are leading to tightening budgets and dwindling profits. The bottom line is that it is no exaggeration to say that these rules could put many lobstermen out of business. The effect on fishing families, and even on entire fishing communities, could be devastating.

Furthermore, these rules bring additional safety concerns to the lobster industry. Many offshore areas in Maine have extremely rocky sea floors. Sinking rope vastly increases the likelihood that the line will chaff and snag, wearing the rope to the point that it can suddenly snap, or pulling the boat's rail towards the waterline where it can more easily be swamped and capsized by a large wave.

Passage of this bill would be a step toward alleviating the economic and safety impacts of these rules by opening fishermen's individually held Capital Construction Funds, or CCF's, to purchases of fishing gear required to meet conservation measures required within a fishery or for purchase of equipment to increase the safety of life at sea. Currently, fishermen can deposit a portion of their pre-tax income into a CCF, and that money can then be withdrawn for purchase or reconstruction of fishing boats. Expanding the qualified withdrawals from these accounts would reduce the safety and economic impacts of these and other fishing regulations. Furthermore, this bill would provide an additional outlet for the \$221 million currently held in

CCF's nationwide, limiting the expansion of fishing capacity and enhancing conservation efforts by reducing incentives to buy or upgrade existing vessels.

Our fisheries are the only remaining commercial wild capture industries in the Nation; fishermen are the last commercial hunters. As such, they must strike a unique balance between plying their trade and protecting the resource and the environment that supports it. The Nation's managers thus strive to balance the two parallel goals of sustaining our fish stocks and the viability of our fishing industries. The bill I introduce today will help achieve that balance by making fishing gear required for conservation or safety purposes more affordable for America's hard-working fishermen.

I want to thank my colleagues, Senators REED, KERRY, LIEBERMAN, WHITEHOUSE, COLLINS, and KENNEDY for co-sponsoring this legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2865

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Fisheries Capital Construction Fund Enhancement Act of 2008".

SECTION 2. CERTAIN QUALIFIED CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION FUND WITHDRAWALS.

Section 53509 of title 46, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "or" after the semicolon in paragraph (1) of subsection (a);

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) of subsection (a) as paragraph (3);

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) of subsection (a) the following:

"(2) the acquisition of gear or equipment required for safety of life at sea or to comply with conservation measures within a fishery; or"; and

(4) by inserting after "withdrawal." in subsection (c) the following: "The minimum cost requirements established by such regulations (50 C.F.R. 259.31) shall not apply to a withdrawal described in subsection (a)(2).".

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 2867. A bill to authorize additional resources to identify and eliminate illicit sources of firearms smuggled into Mexico for use by violent drug trafficking organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Southwest Border Violence Reduction Act. This legislation is aimed at addressing the drug-related violence that has plagued parts of Mexico and ensuring that we dedicate the resources necessary to stop the flow of weapons that help fuel this violence.

In the Mexican state of Chihuahua, which shares a border with New Mexico, there have been over 200 killings

since the beginning of 2008, an increase of about 100 percent over the previous year. This violence, which is mostly perpetrated by international drug trafficking organizations, impacts the well-being and safety of communities on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Recently it was reported that the entire police force in Palomas, a Mexican town just across the border from Columbus, New Mexico, resigned after repeated threats from drug traffickers. The Chief of Police fled to the United States to seek asylum. On another recent occasion, the Columbus Port of Entry was shut down after there were several killings nearby. As a result, American school children who commute back and forth over the border had to receive a police escort. And just yesterday, the Department of State renewed a travel advisory warning of the ongoing violence.

I have met with Mexico's Ambassador, Foreign Minister, and Attorney General to raise serious concerns about the level of violence in the region and to discuss ways to address this problem. I am pleased that the Government of Mexico understands the gravity of this situation and I appreciate Mexico's response in sending 2,000 troops to Chihuahua to bring it under control. However, both Mexican and U.S. law enforcement officials have stressed the need to more aggressively target the criminal enterprises that are supplying weapons to drug cartels. According to ATF, about 90 percent of the firearms recovered in Mexico are trafficked from the United States because high-powered weapons are much easier to purchase in the U.S. than in Mexico.

The drug cartels operating along the border smuggle illegal narcotics into the United States and use revenue derived from the drug trade to purchase the firearms they need to maintain control over drug trafficking routes. According to ATF, about 90 percent of the firearms recovered in Mexico originate from sources within the United States because high-powered weapons, such as M-50s, are much easier to purchase in the United States than in Mexico. The ability to fight drug traffickers is significantly hampered by the fact that these violent groups use smuggled weapons to assassinate military and police officials, murder rival members of drug organizations, and kill innocent civilians.

In order to reduce violence in the region and disrupt the drug trade, it is essential that we aggressively work to prevent drug trafficking organizations operating in Mexico from obtaining these weapons. This effort requires that additional resources be allocated to target weapons trafficking networks supplying these arms and enhanced international cooperation in tracing the sources of weapons seized in Mexico.

To this end, the legislation I am introducing today would authorize additional resources to expand a successful

ATF initiative, Project Gunrunner, which is aimed at combating arms smuggling. The bill would also increase the training and support of Mexican law enforcement in investigating firearms trafficking cases.

Specifically, the legislation would enable ATF to hire, train, and deploy an additional 80 special agents to establish and support seven more Project Gunrunner Teams that are solely devoted to disrupting firearm trafficking organizations smuggling weapons into Mexico. The bill also would make it possible for ATF to place at least 12 additional special agents in Mexico to support Mexican law enforcement in tracing seized firearms. Two Special Agents could be assigned to U.S. Consulates throughout the border region, Guadalajara, Chihuahua, Matamoros, Hermosillo, Tijuana, and Mazatlan, in conjunction with existing DEA offices. Funds would cover salaries, protective and investigative equipment, and other costs associated with maintaining a foreign presence. And lastly, the legislation would significantly increase ATF efforts to assist and train Mexican law enforcement officers with weapons trafficking investigations. The bill authorizes \$24.5 million for each fiscal year 2009 and 2010 to implement this Act.

I strongly believe that it is essential that the U.S. enhance its efforts to stop the flow of weapons being trafficked into Mexico, and I hope my colleagues will join me in this effort.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 514—CONGRATULATING THE BOSTON COLLEGE MEN'S ICE HOCKEY TEAM ON WINNING THE 2008 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I NATIONAL ICE HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KERRY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 514

Whereas, on Saturday, April 12, 2008, the Boston College men's ice hockey team (referred to in this preamble as the "Eagles") won the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I National Ice Hockey Championship by defeating the University of Notre Dame men's ice hockey team by the score of 4 to 1 in the final game of the Frozen Four;

Whereas the University of Notre Dame men's ice hockey team deserves great respect for reaching the Frozen Four for the first time in the team's history and then advancing to the National Championship game;

Whereas the victory for Boston College marked the Eagles' third national hockey championship, after the team's first championship win in 1949 and its second championship win in 2001;

Whereas the Eagles earned the number 1 seed in the NCAA hockey tournament with an impressive overall record of 24 wins, 11 losses, and 8 ties during the 2007-2008 season;

Whereas the Eagles were led by junior Nathan Gerbe, the Nation's leading scorer in

men's college ice hockey, who came in second for the Hobey Baker Memorial Award, with 35 goals and 32 assists during the season;

Whereas the Eagles have made the National Championship game in each of the past 3 years, demonstrating extraordinary teamwork and dedication;

Whereas the remarkable 2007-2008 season also included a memorable victory for the Eagles in the historic Beanpot Championship in February 2008, earning Boston College its 14th Beanpot Championship;

Whereas Boston College "Super Fans" traveled great distances all year and gave the Eagles strong support throughout their championship season; and

Whereas Boston College and its student athletes are well known for their commitment to both athletic and academic excellence, ranking sixth nationally among NCAA Division I schools in the graduation rate of student athletes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates—

(A) the Boston College men's ice hockey team for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I National Ice Hockey Championship; and

(B) the players, coaching staff, faculty and staff of the university, student body, and fans whose determination, strong work ethic, drive, and support made the 2007-2008 championship season possible;

(2) congratulates the University of Notre Dame men's ice hockey team for its success in the 2007-2008 season and for reaching the Frozen Four for the first time in the team's history; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) Boston College President Father William P. Leahy, S.J.;

(B) Boston College Athletic Director Gene DeFilippo; and

(C) Boston College Head Coach Jerry York.

SENATE RESOLUTION 515—COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND WORK OF DITH PRAN

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted the following resolution, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 515

Whereas, between 1975 and 1979, Dith Pran dedicated his life and journalistic career to preventing genocide by exposing the atrocities perpetrated by the Khmer Rouge regime in his native Cambodia;

Whereas Dith Pran, the subject of the Academy Award-winning film "The Killing Fields", survived the genocide in Cambodia in which up to 2,000,000 men, women, and children, including most of Dith Pran's extended family, were killed by the Khmer Rouge;

Whereas Dith Pran assisted many of his fellow journalists who were covering the impending takeover of Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge to escape unharmed from the country when the capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, fell to the Khmer Rouge in 1975;

Whereas Dith Pran was subsequently imprisoned by the Khmer Rouge, and for 4 years endured forced labor, beatings, and unconscionable conditions of human suffering;

Whereas, in 1979, Dith Pran escaped from forced labor past the Khmer Rouge's "killing fields", a term Mr. Dith created to describe the mass graveyards he saw on his 40-mile journey to a refugee camp in Thailand;

Whereas Dith Pran, in the words of New York Times Executive Editor Bill Keller,