

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second. There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

DEMOCRATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) is necessarily absent.

REPUBLICAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 85, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 12 Leg.]

YEAS—85

Alexander	Fischer	Menendez
Ayotte	Flake	Merkley
Baldwin	Franken	Mikulski
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Baucus	Graham	Murphy
Bennet	Grassley	Murray
Blumenthal	Hagan	Nelson
Blunt	Harkin	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Pryor
Boxer	Heinrich	Reed
Brown	Heitkamp	Reid
Burr	Heller	Rockefeller
Cantwell	Hirono	Sanders
Cardin	Hoeven	Schatz
Carper	Inhofe	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (SD)	Shaheen
Chambliss	Johnson (WI)	Shelby
Coats	Kaine	Stabenow
Coburn	King	Tester
Cochran	Kirk	Thune
Collins	Klobuchar	Udall (CO)
Coons	Landrieu	Udall (NM)
Corker	Lautenberg	Warner
Cornyn	Leahy	Warren
Crapo	Levin	Whitehouse
Donnelly	Manchin	Wicker
Durbin	McCain	Wyden
Enzi	McCasikill	
Feinstein	McConnell	

NAYS—8

Cruz	Paul	Rubio
Johanns	Risch	Scott
Lee	Roberts	

NOT VOTING—6

Begich	Moran	Toomey
Isakson	Sessions	Vitter

The motion was agreed to.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2013

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 47) to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act of 1994.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING NEW ORLEANS

Ms. LANDRIEU. I know Senator HARKIN is on the floor with others to present several new pieces of legislation or to speak on items pending. I wanted to take a moment of personal privilege to say just a few words about the spectacular sporting event that took place in our country yesterday in the city of New Orleans. I want to, of course, congratulate the Baltimore Ravens, the Senators from Maryland, particularly Senator MIKULSKI and Senator CARDIN, and Governor O'Malley, who was there, of course, representing Maryland; the Senators from San Francisco and California, the 49ers, Senators FEINSTEIN and BOXER, former Speaker PELOSI was with us yesterday in New Orleans, and thousands of fans from all over the world and, of course, watching on television.

I wanted to make a note on this floor, not because it was just a sporting event, although it was one of the highest watched Super Bowls ever in the history of the game, but because of the role this Congress played and the administration in helping this great city and region and State rebound from what was a devastating body blow 7½ years ago with Hurricane Katrina and then Rita hit 3 weeks later and then the levees broke in over 52 places. The city went virtually underwater—at least two-thirds of the city.

To see, 7½ years later, the city rebound, the people of New Orleans and Louisiana are just foremost in my thoughts right now for their fighting spirit, their resiliency, their unwillingness to give up on this special place that will celebrate its 300th birthday in 2018. I want to say a special thank-you to Mayor Landrieu, John Young, president of Jefferson Parish, the leaders of St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish. Those parishes were virtually destroyed, the lower part of Jefferson Parish. The whole region has come back. The world could see it for themselves yesterday—the civic leadership, the faith-based leadership. Again, a shout out to President Obama, his Cabinet and the Members on both sides of

the aisle who stood by this region, the gulf coast, to rebuild after all these years.

In conclusion, it is my only hope that after passing the Sandy supplemental, we will stand united with the Northeast as they rebuild bigger, better, stronger, hosting the next Super Bowl which is a real symbol of resurgence and rebuilding and resurrection.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF FMLA

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, this week is a milestone for working families across America. Twenty years ago this week, President Bill Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act. There are many laws we pass in Washington that most Americans never have reason to know or care about. The FMLA, by contrast, has changed this country in profoundly important ways.

It has touched the lives of millions of working families. It is almost hard to imagine today, but 20 years ago before this landmark law, workers had to risk their jobs and livelihoods when family needs arose. There was no national policy for maternity leave or paternity leave. New mothers were sometimes compelled to return to work just days after giving birth or to quit jobs they would otherwise have liked to keep.

There was no law allowing someone to take leave from work to care for an aging, potentially dying parent or to care for a child with a serious illness. Families had to leave their loved ones in the hands of others or quit their jobs and face dire economic consequences. There was no policy to allow a seriously ill worker to return to work after recovering from cancer or other serious health condition. All these workers risked being fired, having no job to return to, and losing their health insurance as well.

Countless hard-working Americans were forced to make wrenching choices between their or their family's health and their economic well-being.

The passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act changed all that. It has helped new parents bond with their children during those first magical few weeks of life. It has helped to give workers struggling with a difficult diagnosis the time and security they need to recover. It has allowed loving family members to care for relatives with disabilities and elderly parents.

It has ensured that family members of our wounded warriors can be there to help their heroes recover. Just as important, it has helped countless businesses across the country retain good workers and maintain an experienced and dedicated workforce.

The FMLA has been an unqualified success. It has made a real difference in the lives of millions of hard-working Americans. In fact, the FMLA has been

used more than 100 million times since its passage 20 years ago.

To be sure, the legislative path to the Family and Medical Leave Act was not easy nor quick. In the Senate, Senator Chris Dodd was the tireless champion of the Family and Medical Leave Act. From the time of its first introduction in 1986 to its final passage in 1993, we would not have the Family and Medical Leave Act without Senator Chris Dodd. He held multiple subcommittee hearings across the country, hearing from dozens of witnesses. He led the bill through multiple committee markups and led the floor fight year after year after year. He worked to override two Presidential vetoes and shepherded it to its final passage in 1993, after which it became the first law signed by a new President, President Bill Clinton.

Senator Dodd found a partner in Senator Kit Bond from Missouri, whose strong interest in shoring up the American family led him to work with Senator Dodd on a bipartisan compromise proposal that would garner significant political support in both political parties. As Senator Bond said upon introducing the final version of the bill in 1993:

I believe the single most important step we can take to help all families in America is to try to reestablish individual and family responsibility. To do that, we as a society need to make family obligation something we encourage rather than discourage. That is why I believe we should enact the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Their bipartisan efforts have reaped huge rewards.

My office has heard from people around the country who have benefited from the Family and Medical Leave Act.

The Family and Medical Leave Act meant that Kimberly Jones of Wisconsin was able to help her developmentally challenged son, David, during a critical time. After years of struggling socially and in school, after a misdiagnosis that led to medications that made him worse, David finally received the correct diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome, which allowed him to get the right care and the appropriate treatment. The FMLA allowed Kim to take 12 weeks off from work so she could be with her son, David, to advocate for him, seek out professionals, learn how to help him, and support him through detoxification from his previous medications.

Thanks to the FMLA, Kim was able to get David situated and take the time to do what was best for him. Kim says parents shouldn't have to lose their jobs to do what is best for their children. She adds that children and families are in a better place because of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

Tonya Pinkston from Atlanta, GA, was diagnosed with lupus in 2009, but she was allowed only 3 sick days a year. As the sole earner in her household with her parents and daughter, she absolutely had to keep her job. Her boss suggested the Family and Medical

Leave Act. Later, when her lupus flared, she was able to take leave for 4 weeks to allow her 1 week in the hospital and recuperation at home.

Without the Family and Medical Leave Act, Tonya would have been fired for missing so much time and she probably would have had to go on unemployment insurance. Tonya thanks God for the FMLA and feels fortunate that President Bill Clinton signed it and it was there when she needed it.

Right now at a Baltimore hospital, Michelle Marrocco is using FMLA leave to care for her son, Brendan, a wounded warrior injured while serving in the Army in Iraq in 2009. Brendan is the first surviving quadruple amputee and has already faced challenges few of us can imagine. In December, he underwent a double-arm transplant. It has been widely reported in the news media. Brendan will need years of rehabilitation and occupational therapy.

When Brendan was originally injured, Michelle's employer at the time voluntarily paid for 3 months of leave. Michelle's current employer adheres to the FMLA, allowing her up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for Brendan following his transplants.

She expects to take 2 months of leave, followed by intermittent leave to be with her son once a week. Without the FMLA, Michelle would have had to quit her job. With the FMLA, she knows she doesn't have to worry about her job, which is a huge relief for her. The lack of income is a big concern, but it is something she and her husband will worry about later. Thanks to new regulations from the Department of Labor, Michelle will be able to take advantage of a new provision of the Family and Medical Leave Act, allowing up to 26 weeks of leave for the families of veterans injured in the line of duty.

The Family and Medical Leave Act is one of our Nation's most important laws. That is why I will introduce this week a resolution honoring the FMLA and the leaders who made the FMLA a reality.

There are so many. I mentioned those who were here in the Senate; there were those in the House who also helped shepherd this through. I would mention, of course, Connie Morella, a former Congresswoman who was so active in the bill.

I would mention also GEORGE MILLER, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, and Congresswoman ROSA DELAURIO, who worked so hard to get this passed in the House. There were people on the outside, Judy Lichtman, in 1993, was the head of something called the Women's Legal Defense Fund. She and her colleague Donna Lenhoff played absolutely critical roles in getting the FMLA written, introduced, and across the finish line. I wanted to mention those heroes who worked so hard for this important bill.

There is still more work to do to ensure that families are fully able to meet their family responsibilities as well as maintain economic security.

Today, workers are ineligible to take FMLA for a variety of reasons. Some workers do not have enough tenure with their current employer, even if they have been in the workforce for years.

The FMLA requires 1 year of service, but in today's economy, workers more frequently change jobs and, of course, family emergencies happen without warning. Other workers are not able to accumulate the required 1,250 hours of work with a single employer in the preceding year. With the growth in part-time work, both by choice and by necessity, more workers may be ineligible for FMLA even though they are long-term dedicated employees. Millions of people work in businesses with fewer than 50 employees, which means their employer is not covered by the FMLA and does not have to offer that kind of leave.

This also makes it harder for smaller businesses to recruit the best employees because they are not on a level playing field with larger companies that must provide leave and where workers have come to expect it.

Still other workers are excluded from the law because of the nature of their relationship with a loved one. Workers may only take FMLA to care for their minor child, parents or spouses. Under certain circumstances, parents may care for their adult child with a disability. This excludes siblings, grandchildren and grandparents, domestic partners of the same or opposite sex, in-laws, cousins, and everyone else.

That is why the Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act sponsored by Senator DURBIN is so important. This bill will expand and modernize the definition of family to include many currently excluded relationships. Too many workers will otherwise have no one eligible to care for them in a time of need or the person they rely on most will not be recognized as their family for purposes of the FMLA. This is a commonsense change we can and must accomplish.

One of the most common and critical challenges faced by families is the loss of income while taking unpaid FMLA leave. This obliges parents to cut short maternity and paternity leave. It forces cancer patients to work as much as possible, rather than taking time to fully recuperate or, worse, to forgo leave altogether. Still others are financially devastated when they have no choice but to take unpaid leave.

We cannot allow family responsibilities to jeopardize families' economic security. A social insurance program to provide some wage replacement during family and medical leave would allow families to maintain their economic security while seeing to their families. Research shows this could be done on a universal basis with very small, shared contributions by workers and their employers. Two States, New Jersey and California, have already implemented such paid leave systems, helping families in those States to be financially secure during family and medical leave.

Today is the day to honor the efforts of so many whose work led to the passage and signing of the Family and Medical Leave Act 20 years ago. This is a time to reflect on how transformative the Family and Medical Leave Act has been for our society. It is also time to look ahead to additional ways we can support families and allow them to stay strong, mutually supportive, and economically secure.

I look forward to future work to expand and strengthen the protections of the Family and Medical Leave Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague Senator HARKIN for his leadership on the Family and Medical Leave Act, along with my predecessor Chris Dodd's very strong dedication to this cause and the historic difference he and Senator HARKIN have made on a truly transformative measure for the United States of America. The Family and Medical Leave Act has made a difference in so many lives and shaped so many futures for the better in our Nation. I will be honored to join his resolution and to support Senator DURBIN's Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act and simply offer my thanks to him on behalf of Connecticut as well as the country for his leadership on this issue.

This measure is about human beings and the values that define us and make us great as a nation, the greatest Nation in the history of the world.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, the measure we have approved today to move forward, the Violence Against Women Act, so far as it defines us, states our values and articulates the vision we see of our Nation as caring for people who are victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. I am proud of my colleagues for approving this measure today to go forward by an overwhelming bipartisan vote, 85 to 8.

I hope this day will be followed by final passage here and then in the House of Representatives, avoiding the fate that befell it during the last session, when I similarly supported this measure to reauthorize and strengthen a bill that has served us well for 18 years. It served us well in addressing a problem that is as horrific and heinous as any that afflicts our society, domestic violence and sexual assault, shapes futures and transforms lives for the worse, unless they are followed by the service and law enforcement that VAWA provides. VAWA is about the organizations that provide those services and need the support in Connecticut and around the country, organizations in Connecticut that provide services to 54,000 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault every year. In our State alone, \$4 million provides those critical services to men and women and chil-

dren so they can survive and even thrive after domestic assault. We have made great strides on this problem, but there is great work still to be done. We cannot be complacent or overconfident. We cannot be self-satisfied. We must press ahead with VAWA, and that is why today's passage is so important—at least the passage of the motion to proceed.

Groups and organizations in Connecticut and across the nation report to me about critical staff shortages, resources they need to respond to the hundreds of thousands of women every year who face these problems, and the protection they provide to children as well as women who are victims of this crime.

I have been very privileged to join with Interval House in an effort called Men Against Domestic Violence. Men make a difference. They are potential role models, and we have tried to provide those role models to go into schools and provide education—a group of men who are educators, police, and other kinds of leaders in their communities, in business. We helped to start this effort through Interval House, our major domestic shelter in the State. This is only a small example of how these efforts can have a ripple effect through VAWA.

We need to not only renew our commitment to end domestic violence but also to update and strengthen and expand the Violence Against Women Act. I am pleased to join my colleague Senator PORTMAN in offering an amendment that strengthens services for children and youth victims of sex trafficking. Yes, sex trafficking and human trafficking continue to exist in this Nation. It is sometimes invisible, unknown, one of the most heinous crimes imaginable—modern-day slavery, unspeakable indenture of children. We need to do more to ensure that children in our communities who are victims of sex trafficking have access to the life-saving services that are available to other youth victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.

We can make sure agencies and organizations that provide these services access grant funding available for this purpose. Again, this goal ought to be bipartisan, and it is with Senator PORTMAN and myself on this amendment. I hope my colleagues will support it.

Vulnerable communities ought to receive the same kind of protection through VAWA even though they are now overlooked by existing law, and those protections should be expanded. We have an obligation to ensure that all victims of domestic violence, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identification, are covered by this law. So this legislation contains protection for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Americans. The LGBT community ought to know it is covered in the same way as every other part of our population, even though they face discrimination that prevents them

from accessing those victim services now.

In fact, a recent survey found that 45 percent of LGBT victims were turned away when they sought help from a violence center. That is simply unacceptable. So this legislation will make sure they have access to these services and also make great improvements in the law enforcement tools available to Native American communities.

Our Nation's tribal communities are literally facing an epidemic of domestic violence and sexual assault. Nearly three out of five Native American women are assaulted by their spouses or intimate partners, and one-third of all Native American women will be raped during their lifetime. I know those statistics are hard to grasp. They seem incredible. Three out of five Native American women are assaulted by their spouses or intimate partners. One-third of all Native American women will be raped during their lifetime.

I wish they were wrong. I would be happy to be corrected. But those numbers tell a searing and unacceptable truth about our Nation. Tribal courts currently cannot prosecute domestic violence crimes against Native American women that are committed on tribal lands by a non-Native American. S. 47 closes that loophole so that all Native American women will have access to justice.

Finally, the 2000 reauthorization of VAWA contained landmark provisions to protect immigrant victims of domestic violence, and S. 47 significantly maintains and expands those provisions, sending a strong message that immigrant women deserve the full protection of the law, the full measure of American justice. It is the reason they have come to this country, the reason that millions of immigrants come to this country, the reason we are a nation of immigrants and strong because of the diversity and the talent they bring to this Nation. We must guarantee justice to immigrant women.

I am still frustrated and disappointed the last Congress did not approve VAWA; that this measure was stalled in the House of Representatives despite a similarly bipartisan vote in this body to approve it. I hope this year the vote in this body will be a prelude to bipartisan approaches on this measure and others where basic human values are at stake; that there will be no stalling again; that this measure will proceed in the House on a similarly bipartisan basis.

An inclusive bipartisan VAWA should not be postponed. Time is not on the side of victims. They need these services. Law enforcement needs the support to make sure anyone committing domestic violence or sexual assault in this country is held responsible and accountable, and that we send that message to women and children throughout this country.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.