

Federal and State law enforcement, victim services, forensic science practitioner, and health care communities to inform development of future best practices or clinical guidelines regarding the care and treatment of sexual assault survivors; and

(6) perform other activities, such as activities relating to development, dissemination, outreach, engagement, or training associated with advancing victim-centered care for sexual assault survivors.

(e) **REPORT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Working Group shall submit to the Attorney General, the Secretary, and Congress a report containing the findings and recommended actions of the Working Group.

SEC. 8. CIVIL REMEDY FOR SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Section 2255(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “three years” and inserting “10 years”; and

(2) by inserting “ends” before the period at the end.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in 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.

The Senator from Ohio.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GENERAL MOTORS LORDSTOWN PLANT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on Saturday I visited the General Motors Lordstown plant near Youngstown to celebrate its 50th anniversary. For half a century, this plant has been an anchor of the Mahoning Valley. It has supported good, middle-class union jobs through good times and bad. Seven Ohioans—get this—seven workers at that plant have been there for all 50 of those years. Albert Gifford, Mossco Dubose, John Brincko, Robert Polansky, Thomas Koppel, John Rosa, and Stephen Gazdik have helped build 21 different General Motors models since 1966, starting with the Chevy Impala.

The car they make now is the Chevy Cruze. My wife and I are proud Chevy Cruze owners. I drove to the plant in one. I was proud to be at GM Lordstown in 2010 to see the very first Chevy Cruze roll off the assembly line. The first three Cruzes were painted red, white, and blue. They represented the determination of a community and a country—think about the auto industry and the state of the economy back in 2010. They represented the determination of the country to bounce back and succeed in the face of long odds and national naysayers who wanted to write off this plant and that community.

It has been a rough few years for that industry. Think about where we were

less than a decade ago. Auto sales were down 40 percent, 1 million jobs were at risk of being lost, on top of the 8 million jobs we had already lost as President Obama took office. We heard rightwing politicians on the news calling the American auto industry dead, but what they meant was they didn't believe it was worth saving. They wanted to bet against American companies and against American workers.

The workers at Lordstown and at plants like it across Ohio—in Toledo, in Defiance and Cleveland and Walton Hills and Avon Lake—and across the country proved them wrong. Working together with President Obama, we invested in rescuing the American auto industry. Right now, because of the auto rescue, because of workers in Lordstown, in Parma and Cleveland and across the Midwest, the American auto industry is roaring back to life. GM posted 5 percent gains in sales last year.

Let's be clear. Ohio and much of the Midwest would be close to a depression if the doubters and the naysayers had their way. But we refused to let the auto industry collapse, and history has proven it was the right thing to do. The people of Northeast Ohio know how important it was. So do people across the whole State. So do people across that region. The cars made in Lordstown epitomize how central the auto industry is to Ohio's economy. The Chevy Cruze features components made at plants all across Ohio. The engine blocks are manufactured in Defiance, the transmissions are assembled in Toledo, the wheels for the Chevy Cruze Eco are made by Alcoa in Cleveland, and parts are stamped in Parma and also in Lordstown.

Ever since the first Chevy Impala rolled off the lot in 1966, the Mahoning Valley has depended on Lordstown. This is the industry and the company on which the great American middle class was built.

On Saturday, anyone could see how central this plant is to its community. GM estimates that more than 10,000 people—young and old, families with their children, vintage car buffs, former workers—turned out to watch the parade, stroll through the car show, and tour the plant. The line to get into the plant stretched down the street and around the block. That is what this plant and this auto industry mean to the communities they serve.

I know this community and this State will continue to depend on auto workers for another 50 years and beyond.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

USDA CATFISH INSPECTION PROGRAM

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, tomorrow, apparently the Senate is going to have an opportunity to weigh in on the issue of whether it is good policy to

allow uninspected, adulterated Vietnamese catfish into the United States. That will be the issue before us in the form of a resolution to disapprove a USDA regulation.

The Senate will vote on whether it is a good idea to expose American consumers to catfish containing illegal antibiotics, heavy metals, and other carcinogens. I think the Senate will once again say that we need to protect American consumers from these harmful contents of imported catfish, and we need to protect them by continuing a new U.S. Department of Agriculture catfish inspection program.

What happened before we had the USDA catfish inspection program? Under previous law, the Food and Drug Administration inspected catfish coming into the United States, principally Vietnamese catfish. What we found out in this program is that only 2 percent of the catfish coming in got inspected. The other 98 percent came through without the Federal Government taking a look at it. What we learned from the information given to us was that some of the catfish coming in did have these harmful chemicals in them. So the farm bill passed by the Congress changed the inspection regime from the FDA to where it is now—the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Under the Department of Agriculture program, almost all of the catfish will be inspected to make sure it is free of these harmful substances.

The people who are trying to go back to the old method of inspection make some claims. They say the new USDA rule is duplicative. They say it is a WTO violation. They say it is costly.

I will tell my colleagues—and I want my colleagues listening in their offices to understand this—there will not be a duplicative program. FDA is out of the catfish inspection business as of March 1 of this year. The only inspections being carried out now are through USDA. So the argument that this new program is duplicative is factually incorrect. You can say it as many times as you want to; that doesn't make it true. There is no duplication.

Furthermore, there is no WTO violation. The equivalent standards are being applied both to imported and domestic fish, so the standards are the same. We just want to make sure they are safe. We are pretty sure about domestic catfish. A lot of it is grown in my State of Mississippi. A lot of it is grown in Missouri, Arkansas, and Alabama. Those catfish farms are inspected. The fish are not caught out in a river somewhere; they are inspected where they are grown and are harvested under very controlled conditions. We just want all fish consumed in the United States to be as safe as domestically produced fish.

Thirdly, they say the new rule is costly. Well, the entire program is going to cost \$1.1 million a year through USDA. I would say \$1 million a year to protect the American consumers is a reasonable price to pay. It is not costly in the scheme of things.

Let me tell you what we found so far in the brief history of this new USDA program. We found that catfish coming in from Vietnam was adulterated. I can hardly pronounce these words, but I have here a publication from Food Chemical News dated today, May 23. It reports that according to the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, they have already found two shipments that have just come in in recent weeks that were adulterated. This is Vietnamese catfish that the U.S. Department of Agriculture caught that would have been consumed by American consumers in restaurants and would have been bought at supermarkets. They wouldn't let it in. They sent it back. Thank heavens they did because one shipment contained gentian crystal violet, so they didn't allow it to come in. That is the kind of inspection this vote tomorrow will try to stop. I want to keep those inspections. The other shipment that was not allowed in contained malachite green, and it contained enrofloxacin and fluoroquinolone—all chemicals and substances that are prohibited to be consumed in the United States because they are not safe. They contain heavy metals, they contain carcinogens, and they contain illegal antibiotics that we are trying to protect U.S. consumers from.

I will give credit to the authors of this resolution of disapproval: This would somewhat cut the price of fish in restaurants. But I will tell you what. If my colleagues want to foist less expensive catfish that contains heavy metals, antibiotics, and carcinogens off on American consumers, let them have at it. I don't think the majority of the Senate wants to do that in the name of a duplicative program—and it is not duplicative—and in the name of reducing costs when the whole program costs about \$1 million a year.

I want my colleagues to be aware that this vote is going to come up tomorrow. It is a very unusual vote. It is a Congressional Review Act vote. Thirty of my colleagues have signed a petition, so it must come to a vote, and it must come tomorrow afternoon. The vote to proceed will take place tomorrow afternoon. If the motion to proceed is agreed to—and I certainly hope it is not—then we will have 10 hours of debate right here in the middle of the week when we should be talking about national defense and all of the issues that really trouble Americans. We have 10 hours of debate, according to the law, on whether the regulation should go forward.

I hope we will simply vote against the motion to proceed tomorrow. That way, under the Congressional Review Act, that will be the end of the matter and the Department of Agriculture can keep inspecting and keep protecting American consumers.

Americans should be aware this is coming up, and my colleagues and their staff should get schooled in this rather obscure issue.

Should the resolution pass, we will have the very unusual and unworkable situation of the farm bill still being the law of the land, of the Department of Agriculture still being the agency in charge of inspections. That will still be the law; we simply won't have a rule allowing that part of the bill to be implemented. So, in effect, since the FDA inspection regime has ended, according to law, we will have no inspection whatsoever. That is my understanding of the result should the resolution of disapproval be approved. I don't think it will be approved. I think we will stand tomorrow for consumer protection and for applying the laws of consumer safety and food safety evenly and across the board.

So I urge a "no" vote tomorrow on the motion to proceed.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

SEXUAL ASSAULT SURVIVORS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here to thank my colleagues for their strong, overwhelming, bipartisan support for the Sexual Assault Survivors' Bill of Rights, an act that I have been proud to help lead and champion, along with my colleagues, Senators SHAHEEN and LEAHY. It is a cause that I championed as a prosecutor and law enforcer in my State, as the Federal prosecutor, U.S. attorney, and then as our attorney general in the State of Connecticut. It is a cause that deserves this kind of overwhelming, bipartisan support because for too long survivors of sexual assault have been denied the basic care and rights they need and deserve, and for too long they have been victimized twice—first by an assailant who fundamentally violated their rights and then by the court system and a law enforcement system that failed to respect and recognize their need for those rights to be enforced effectively.

When a survivor of sexual assault engages the criminal justice system, she must be secure, absolutely confident and trusting in her rights and empowered to make informed decisions. Reporting sexual assault requires incredible courage, bravery beyond the imagination of many who fail to understand how much courage is required, and too often the system fails to respect those rights. She deserves a system that is worthy of that bravery.

Too often, survivors are simply uninformed about what is happening, not told about basic evidence and proceedings, and they find that vital evidence was destroyed without their consent or encounter Byzantine procedural barriers to justice. That is wrong.

This bill represents important steps toward a system that mirrors unsparing prosecution of people who commit these heinous offenses with sensitive and fair treatment of survivors.

Currently, depending on the jurisdiction, there are a wide array of different practices and procedures. Sexual assault victims often experience a complex and cryptic maze of policies that deter those survivors from pursuing justice.

This legislation will address unique challenges faced by sexual assault survivors, particularly regarding notice, access, and preservation of evidence. The preservation of evidence is particularly important because the sexual assault evidence collection kits are absolutely vital to justice and successful prosecution.

This bill would empower survivors to make more informed decisions throughout the criminal justice process by supporting State efforts to better notify survivors of available resources as well as applicable State rights and policies.

Finally, the bill will establish a joint Department of Justice and Health and Human Services working group to more effectively implement best practices regarding the care and treatment of survivors across the country—a beacon of information and leadership from the Federal Government to assure that sexual assault survivors are treated with the respect they need and deserve. It is that simple.

This legislation does not address every barrier faced by victims of sexual assault. There is no question that more action is needed. To achieve that, State and local governments must follow suit and must create a culture, a changed culture of compassion for people who have experienced this heinous crime. It is a crime, and it should be treated as one of the most serious and outrageous crimes that anyone can commit. Today the Senate has sent a message that we side with survivors. We are on their side. We will do everything in our power to lighten the burden and pain they bear and help them seek both justice and healing, which they truly deserve.

I thank my great friends and colleagues Senator SHAHEEN and Senator LEAHY for their leadership on this issue. I have been proud to join with them. I thank the Connecticut groups CONNSACS, the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, and the many leaders in Connecticut who have made our State such an important engineer of progress in this area.

Again, it is a journey that must be continued. The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women has done great work and provided important leadership in this area. I thank Amanda Nguyen for her courage and hard work to make this day a reality. All of my colleagues who joined today in supporting this measure can be proud of the work we have done, the leadership we have shown, and the bipartisanship it took.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.