

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the safety of America's school children.

On February 27, Brandie Browder, an eighth grader at Ferguson Jr. High School in Beaver Creek, OH, was coming home from school. As she was getting off her schoolbus that afternoon, the drawstring around the waist of her coat got caught in the handrail of the schoolbus. The schoolbus started to move away. Brandie tried to free the coat, wrenched the coat free of the schoolbus and ran alongside the bus for approximately 50 feet. She lost her footing and fell and the bus ran over her and killed her.

Mr. President, just 4 days later in Cincinnati, a seventh grader from Roberts Paideia School was getting off her schoolbus when a similar event occurred. The bus dragged her for about 3 or 4 feet, ran over her as she tried to free herself. Fortunately, she only suffered a broken foot. She did survive. Mr. President, in both cases the bus driver was apparently totally unaware of the accident as it was happening.

I think we should point out at this point, before I go any further in what I am saying today, that schoolbuses are among the safest modes of transportation. According to the National Safety Council, there are about 400,000 schoolbuses in the United States, and they transport approximately 22 million students every single day. I think we all know and I think most experts would agree if the choices are between putting a child on a schoolbus or letting a teenager drive himself or herself, or ride with someone else, or even having the parents drive to school, most of us, most experts would say statistically the children are better off on the bus. I do not think there is any doubt about that.

Having said that, Mr. President, the sad fact remains that in the 1992-93 school year, 30 schoolchildren were killed in schoolbus accidents. Of these children, 5 were killed while riding on their bus. The other 25 were killed while in the process of getting on or off of their own bus. The year before that, the 1991-92 school year, 35 children were killed nationwide; 10 were riding on their own schoolbuses and 25 were killed while getting on or off the bus.

An average of 30 school children are killed while getting on or off their buses every single year. This is not a new problem. According to the National Safety Council, over the 10 years since 1983 a total of 445 children were killed in schoolbus accidents; 100 of these were passengers and 345 were killed while getting on or off their own bus.

Mr. President, there are many factors contributing to these accidents—many. Today I should like to discuss just three of them.

First, an investigation of these accidents reveals that an alarming number of them involve handrails on the schoolbus. When children are getting

off a schoolbus, they walk down past a handrail. We have all seen them. We have all had that experience. Some of them hold on to it, others do not. But I understand that there is a small space in most schoolbuses, about an inch, between the handrail and the wall of the bus.

Picture a child coming down the steps. He or she may have a backpack, strings or straps trailing off of it. Maybe he or she is wearing a coat with drawstrings that they can use to tighten around the waste—anything, Mr. President, that is trailing off of that child, like these strings and straps, is liable to catch in that small space between the handrail and the wall of the bus.

It is easy to imagine what happens next. The child is off the bus. But part of the child's clothing is stuck in that small gap and the door closes. The bus starts moving. The child gets jerked with it and tries to pry free. We have a moving vehicle and a child swinging off of that vehicle.

That is how Brandie was killed. And since 1991, at least four other children have been killed that way.

In conclusion, Mr. President, we as parents, as members of school boards, as concerned citizens, I believe, need to make sure that these handrails are as safe as possible, that all precautions are being taken to avoid these tragedies.

A second problem, Mr. President, is the danger area around the bus. The schoolbus, of course, is a very large object. It is very difficult for other motorists to see around it. It is even difficult for the bus driver to see around it. Because of this, far too many children are killed by their very own buses. We need to explore ways to make those children visible to the schoolbus driver. There are at least two companies, that produce sensors that can be attached to school buses to prevent accidents.

I have one, Mr. President, right here. This works on the same basic principle as a home security system. It sends out a radio signal. If the signal detects reflected energy from a child in what is called a danger zone area, a frequency shift occurs which triggers an alarm and illuminates a red light in the cab of the bus.

This particular system covers the 10-foot by 10-foot area in front of and behind the bus, as well as the 6 by 8 areas on either side of the bus. There are other technologies that are involved.

We know though, Mr. President, no matter what technology we are talking about, that ultimately it is up to the schoolbus driver. I think what we should try to do is to assist those drivers, most of whom are great people, who do a great job every day protecting our children.

Maybe additional training is needed in some cases; maybe additional equipment on the bus. Maybe other things.

I intend, Mr. President, in the weeks ahead, to return to this issue, because I think it is an issue that we can have

an impact on by publicity, by talking about it, by making people aware of the opportunities they have and all of us have to save lives.

Each one of us has a responsibility—whether we put our own child on that schoolbus every day and tell that child what to be careful about, whether we are on school boards, or parents—to make sure that school system has the latest equipment, to make sure that our good bus drivers do in fact have the training that they need.

Before coming to the floor, Mr. President, I spoke to the father of the little girl who was killed. I wanted to know whether it was all right if I came and talked about his daughter's accident. His reaction was what I expected it to be—that if we could save a life by talking about this issue, that if we could make other parents aware of it, other school boards or school systems, that we should be doing that. That is why I am on the floor today.

I will return to this issue in the future, Mr. President.

At this point, I yield the floor.

Mr. DOLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I say to my colleague from Arkansas, I believe we are about to get an agreement. The distinguished Democrat leader is still on the telephone to one of our colleagues.

The Senator may proceed if he wishes to be recognized.

Mr. BUMPERS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business is the Dole amendment No. 541.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to proceed for 2 minutes as if in morning business.

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

NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, last night the citizens of my State were deeply saddened by the loss of the University of Arkansas Razorbacks to a magnificent UCLA team in the NCAA finals. But No. 2 is not all bad. We finished ahead of several hundred other NCAA mens basketball teams.

Sometimes, none of us performs to perfection or even to our maximum abilities. Last night was not a particularly good night for the Razorbacks, but that is not to diminish the magnificent game that UCLA played.

The 1995 NCAA tournament was filled with hard-fought, competitive games with exciting finishes. Just 2 weeks ago UCLA barely squeezed by Missouri. We all remember watching Tyus Edney go the length of the court and lay one up just at the buzzer to win the game.

And, of course, we remember that timeout call by a youngster from Syracuse that allowed Arkansas to win in overtime. Such is the very nature of the game.

But I can tell you that all Arkansans glory in the spunk of this great, magnificent Razorback team for coming back again and again. While they will lose several players who are seniors, I have confidence that the Razorbacks will be back playing for the championship once again next year.

The University's coach, Nolan Richardson, is a very talented man. He was very gracious last night. He took full responsibility for the loss, as great men do. That resonated well with the American people, as it always does. Generosity will never lose anybody a vote. It is a mark of greatness. And Nolan Richardson was great in his comments last evening. Youngsters all over America want to play for him. So I fully expect that he and the Razorbacks will be back again next year.

I rise just simply to say that this team, as did last year's championship team, has filled all Arkansans' hearts with pride and exhilaration. We are immensely grateful for the glory they bestowed on themselves and our beloved Arkansas.

I yield the floor.

Mr. PRYOR addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I, too, would like to join my senior colleague, Senator BUMPERS, in praising the great University of Arkansas team and also in congratulating the UCLA team for a magnificent job in winning the national championship.

Mr. President, it has not been too long ago since basketball really come to the forefront in the Arkansas Razorbacks' territory. In fact, when I was a student in Fayetteville at the University of Arkansas, they almost had to force us to go over to the field house to watch the Razorbacks play basketball. Usually, those basketball games were on a Friday or a Saturday afternoon.

But then along came some great coaches and ultimately some great teams, and finally the great support of the people of our State, equaling the support now, I think, of the Razorback football team; in fact, in some cases, even surpassing it.

Last year, the Razorbacks, of course, Mr. President, were the national champions. This year, we were almost the national champions. We lost to a great team.

Last night, throughout that game, I sat and watched as the momentum shifted back and forth between UCLA and Arkansas, and between UCLA and Arkansas again. I thought of the many thousands of hours of practice, commitment, that each of those players had committed to the splendid sport in this wonderful country of ours.

Finally, Mr. President, I was taken not only by the fine comments of the coaches of both of those basketball

teams—those glorious teams, I might add—I was also taken by the sportsmanship exemplified by all of the members of those basketball teams as they faced each other in a moment of true contest, in a moment of true testing of who was going to become the championship team of the United States of America.

UCLA prevailed. We congratulate them.

We say to the Razorbacks, thank you for a splendid season and thank you for making us a proud people.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

Mr. KENNEDY addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to proceed for 2 minutes as if in morning business.

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

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I congratulate our two friends and colleagues.

I join in congratulating UCLA for winning the championship, but also in paying tribute to a valiant team that had enormous success during the course of the season.

The University of Massachusetts got to the quarter finals in that particular basketball tournament. I can remember when the University of Massachusetts played Arkansas on Thanksgiving of last year. It was a very good evening at that time when Coach Calipari's team was successful. That team went along and had a superb year, and lost in a hard-fought contest.

I was inspired by the skill and the demeanor and the competitiveness of those young men, and women, as we heard yesterday, from the University of Connecticut.

BOSTON UNIVERSITY WINS NATIONAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. KENNEDY. I will just take this moment, Mr. President, to mention that in my State last Saturday, Boston University won the national championship in hockey. It was an all-New England contest. They played against the University of Maine in a very outstanding, competitive game. Boston University represents one of our great universities and one of the great centers for hockey. New England takes hockey seriously. Other parts of the country do as well.

But I think it is important to take a moment of time, when we have been wondering about the young people of this Nation in the period of these last several days, to focus on the quality of the competitiveness, of the character, of the discipline, of the sportsmanship of real champions.

Whether it was with the UCLA and Arkansas championship last night, or whether it was the superb performance of the University of Connecticut's

women's team, or whether it was Boston University and the University of Maine finals in hockey, I think all Americans ought to take some degree of satisfaction about this next generation. I think all of us who are fortunate to have those teams in our State certainly do.

Mr. President, it is a privilege to take this opportunity to congratulate Boston University's hockey team on winning the 48th annual NCAA Division I hockey championship this past Saturday in Providence, RI. With their brilliant and convincing 6-2 victory over the University of Maine Black Bears, the Terriers completed what the Boston Globe called "college hockey's sweetest triple crown"—winning the annual Beanpot Tournament in Boston, the Hockey East championship and the NCAA championship all in 1 year. The only other team in school history to win this triple crown was the Boston University team of 1972.

The Terriers completed the season with a record of 31-6-3 overall, the second most wins by a BU hockey team. The team was anchored by the presence of 14 natives of Massachusetts, including Mike Grier of Holliston, an African American and First Team All-American who is a role model for hockey fans in Massachusetts and throughout the United States.

For BU, this victory marked their 4th NCAA Division I championship, having won previously in 1971, 1972, and 1978. They have appeared in the Final Four a total of eight times. In their 74 years of competition, they have an overall record of 1046-607-68, for an extraordinary 628 percentage. Under the inspired leadership of Coach Jack Parker, who graduated from the university in 1968, the Terriers have amassed a 491-241-37 record in his 22 years as coach, along with two national championships.

It is a great tribute to Coach Parker and the rest of the Terriers that they were able to come back from a difficult loss in last year's tournament to win this year's championship in such a convincing fashion. I commend them for their impressive victory, and I ask unanimous consent that the team roster and articles from the Boston Globe on Sunday may be printed in the RECORD.

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

No. and name	Cl	Pos	Hgt	Wgt	Hometown
1. Shawn Ferullo*	So	G	5-8	158	Lynnfield, MA.
2. Kaj Linna ***	Sr	D	6-2	210	Helsinki, FIN.
3. Chris O'Sullivan*	So	D	6-3	199	Dorchester, MA.
4. Chris Kelleher	Fr	D	6-1	214	Belmont, MA.
5. Doug Wood**	Jr	D	6-1	200	Sudbury, MA.
7. Rich Brennan***	Sr	D	6-2	200	Guildford, NY.
8. Bill Pierce*	So	W	6-1	195	Burlington, MA.
9. Shawn Bates	So	C	6-0	183	Medford, MA.
11. Bob Lachance**	Jr	W	5-11	183	Bristol, CT.
12. Mike Grier*	So	W	6-0	242	Holliston, MA.
14. John Hynes	Fr	W	5-9	168	Warwick, RI.
15. Mike Sylvia	Fr	W	5-10	170	Newton, MA.
16. Ken Rausch***	Sr	W	6-0	189	Danbury, CT.