share the goal of energizing our democracy and strengthening our Nation's character these initiatives are simply common sense.

What's more, these programs garner tangible benefits. In Connecticut, the Southwest Elementary School in Torrington implemented a character education program in September and has already seen positive results from its students. Attendance is up, students are more respectful toward their teachers and school administrators are convinced that Character Counts is responsible. The school engages parents in the effort, who along with educators and the students themselves, love the program.

While character education may not be a magical solution to all America's problems, it represents a positive effort to make a real difference in our children's lives. Character development programs for our children strengthen our lives, our communities, and our Nation as a whole.

I commend my friend and colleague from New Mexico for all of his work in this area. And I invite all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join us in supporting character education as a vital means of molding better individuals, strengthening families, and creating a responsible American citizenry.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat—and especially Senator DOMENICI—in submitting this year's resolution to designate the week of October 13 through 19 as Character Counts Week.

The Character Counts Coalition is gaining momentum across the country, and I am proud to be a part of that effort.

With core members such as the American Red Cross and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Character Counts now includes over 80 member organizations whose efforts are reaching more than 40 million children, educators, and youth development professionals.

Mr. President, the Character Counts movement—which emphasizes trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship—seeks to teach the core elements of good character to our Nation's young people.

In today's world of widespread abortion, rape, divorce, illegitimate births, and violent crime, such a movement has never been more timely.

In my home State of Tennessee, many citizens have joined the call for character renewal.

In the Franklin and Bradley County school systems, my friend, Mr. Skeet Rymer, has responded the Lessons of Life essay program, based on a model developed by Mr. John Templeton of the Templeton Foundation.

In that program, students write essays examining their own lessons of life, and develop values that will lead them to fulfilled and productive lives.

Reactions from teachers and school board members, such as Lois Taylor, show just how important this program is. She tells us that through the essay contest, students learn to identify their own values and to lay the foundation for good choices throughout their lives.

Another teacher, Janis Collins says, ''I just can't sing the program's praises enough.'' The Templeton Lessons of Life Essay Scholarship contest is just one example of the conscientious effort Tennesseeans are making to educate young people on the importance of moral decisionmaking and conduct.

Mr. President, I also want to commend the city of Greeneville, TN, which has put together a character education program featuring 10 community virtues: self-respect, respect for others, perseverance, courtesy, fairness and justice, responsibility, honesty, kindness, self-discipline, and courage.

Greeneville's character education team—concerned teachers, principals, parents, ministers, school psychologists, and education board members—asked themselves what kind of qualities they would like their students to have, and they have volunteered their time to make sure these characteristics are nourished.

I think that the good people of Greeneville have shown the kind of character—the kind of selfless giving—of which America needs so much more.

Mr. President, Tennesseeans have joined the national effort to save our children from the moral decay we see all around us because they recognize that the only way to preserve this great democracy—this system that requires so much from each of us—and our American way of life, is to instill virtue and moral fortitude in the next generation of Americans.

This will not happen without our effort, and without the incredible leadership of movements like Character Counts. Again, I commend Senator DOMENICI, and all those who are working so hard, to make character count once again in the United States of America.

SENATE RESOLUTION 227—ORIGINAL RESOLUTION REPORTED FROM THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. D'AMATO, from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, reported the following original resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

S. RES. 227

Resolved,

SECTION 1. FUNDS FOR SALARIES AND EXPENSES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE.

There shall be made available from the contingent fund of the Senate out of the Account for Expenses for Inquiries and Investigations, for use before, on, or after February 29, 1996, by the Special Committee to Investigate Whitewater Development Corporation and Related Matters (hereafter in this Resolution referred to as the ''Special Committee''), established by Senate Resolution 120, 104th Congress, agreed to May 17, 1995 (as amended by Senate Resolution 153, 104th Congress, agreed to July 17, 1995) to carry out the investigation, study, and hearings authorized by that Senate Resolution—

(1) a sum equal to not more than $600,000—

(A) for payment of salaries and other expenses of the Special Committee; and

(B) not more than $475,000 of which may be used by the Special Committee for the procurement of the services of individual consultants or organizations thereof; and

(2) such additional sums as may be necessary for agency contributions related to the compensation of employees of the Special Committee.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, in open session, to review the role of the Department of Defense Joint Requirements Oversight Council [JROC].

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to hold a hearing on the administration's views on the bipartisan proposal of the Governors' on welfare and Medicaid on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, beginning at 10 a.m. in room SD–215.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 2:15 p.m. in SD–226 to hold a nominations hearing.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to hold a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 28, 1996.

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

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Labor and Human Resources be authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 9 a.m.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate for a hearing on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 9:30 a.m., in room 428A of

the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing focusing on S. 917 and S. 942—White House Conference on Small Business: Paperwork Reduction and Regulatory Reform Recommendations.

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

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. to hold an open hearing on intelligence matters.

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

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m. to hold a hearing to discuss mental illness and the elderly.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TERRORISM, TECHNOLOGY AND GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Government Information of the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 9:30 a.m., in the Senate Dirksen Building room 106 to hold a hearing on legislation to combat economic espionage.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Youth Violence of the Committee on the Judiciary, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 28, 1996, at 10 a.m., in the Senate Dirksen Building room 226 to hold a hearing on ''the changing nature of youth violence.''

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I have long been active in issues of importance for individuals suffering from a mental illness or disability. Through my efforts in this area, I have become familiar with the vast spectrum of these disorders, and I have found that we as a society have much to learn about both the causes and cures for these illnesses. Knowledge of the medical conditions underpinning these disorders has only recently begun to make progress by leaps and bounds, and I fear that public awareness and knowledge has not grown in step. Because society is still unfamiliar with these advances, an aura of fear and suspicion persists with regard to any one of the illnesses or disorders which afflict so many Americans. It is because of this widespread lack of knowledge and understanding that I rise today in recognition of the Autism Society of America's designation of January as ''National Autism Awareness Month.''

Autism is a neurological disorder that interrupts the brain's ability to process and understand information. Nearly 400,000 Americans suffer from this disorder, making it more prevalent than Down's syndrome or muscular dystrophy.

Autism is a complex, spectrum disorder that manifests itself in many ways. Symptoms and characteristics present themselves in a variety of combinations, and no two children or adults are affected in the same way.

Autism is not curable, but it is treatable. Many types of treatments have proven effective in combating this disorder, and improvements are being discovered every day.

A generation ago, nearly 90 percent of those suffering from autism were placed in an institution. Today, group homes, assisted living arrangements, and home care are much more common. Thanks to the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, many children with autism receive appropriate education and go on to become contributing members of the work force.

In April 1995, in response to direction from Congress, the National Institutes of Health [NIH] held a State-of-the-Sciences Conference on Autism. Conference participants included scientists, clinicians, and parents. The conference highlighted how far we have come in diagnosing and treating autism, but also illuminated how far we have yet to go. National Autism Awareness Month is designed to bring attention to these issues, and seeks to further the Nation's understanding of this complicated and debilitating disorder. I fully support the Autism Society of America's designation of January as National Autism Awareness Month, I share their goal of teaching America more about this disorder, and I welcome my colleagues' support as well.●

AID'S INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, about a month ago when we passed the last continuing resolution, I spoke about the damage a provision included in the CR by the House of Representatives would cause to our international family planning programs. Senator HATFIELD, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, also spoke at that time. We both expressed real concerns about what the House had done, and the effect it would have on the lives of millions of couples around the world especially women.

We also pointed out that the House had essentially handed us a fait accompli, since it recessed immediately thereafter and our only alternative to passing what they sent us in the form they sent it was to close down the Federal Government again. We passed the CR under protest, and I have been very encouraged by the strong stand the chairman of the Appropriations Committee has taken on this issue. He has always been a strong opponent of abortion, but he has also supported family planning and has made the point as eloquently as anyone that the way to reduce the number of abortions is to give couples the means to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

I am not going to repeat all that I said back then. Suffice it to say that as a result of the House action, millions of couples will be denied family planning services, including contraceptives, who want them, need them, and have no other access to them. It does not take a genius to realize that the result will be many more unwanted pregnancies, and many more abortions. In the countries where these family planning programs are carried out, abortion is often unsafe and the incidence of maternal death is alarmingly high.

I cannot believe that was the intent of the authors of the House provision, but how they could have failed to anticipate that result is beyond me. I can only conclude that they do not want the U.S. Government to provide assistance to couples who want to limit their number of children, even though these people want the assistance and many of them live in countries where millions of people go hungry each day.

A February 16, 1996, article in the Baltimore Sun made this same point. Not only does it discuss the steps AID Administrator Atwood has taken to improve efficiency at his agency, it notes that Congress rewarded him by cutting several hundreds of millions of dollars in AID's budget, cuts that I opposed. It cites the example of AID's family planning program, and points out that what the House has done will not only hurt mothers and infants, it will increase the very redtape Congress has been urging AID to cut.

As the article indicates, once again ideology won out over common sense. That seems to be a recurring theme around here.

Mr. President, I ask that the article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, Feb. 16, 1996]

AID LEARNS THAT GOOD DEEDS DO NOT GO UNPUNISHED

(By Sara Engram)

When the Clinton Administration preached ''reinvention'' of government the State Department's Agency for International Development (AID) heeded the call.

Along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, AID became one of two federal ''reinvention laboratories'' where all the talk about more efficient more effective and less costly management turned into reality.

AID has shed some 70 senior level positions, each paying about $100,000 a year. It