

would be subject to liability. But to have some clarification here with regard to when you will be sued, even when you are in effect an innocent bystander in a voluntary capacity, is something that we should do. It is long overdue.

We have known many instances, I am sure, in our own States where these types of lawsuits have been filed. And it is time that we take action. In fact, it goes hand in glove with what is happening in Philadelphia.

So I urge my colleagues that have reservations based on this, if there are concerns by trial lawyers that we can legitimately address, fine. But I do not think we should allow trial lawyers to dictate that we cannot have even the consideration of legislation that would provide some protection for volunteers in America.

Mr. President, again, I urge my colleagues to allow this legislation to go forward. And I hope that our colleagues will be able to vote for a final product by an overwhelming vote.

I yield the floor at this time, Mr. President.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, let me wish the occupant of the Chair a good day.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into a period of morning business not to extend beyond 3:30 p.m.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may be permitted to speak in morning business for not more than 10 minutes.

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

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair. (The remarks of Mr. MURKOWSKI pertaining to the introduction of S. 660 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as if in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

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

#### TITLE IX

Mr. REID. Mr. President, several months ago I visited White Pine County High School located in Ely, NV, one

of the rural spots of Nevada. I was going to speak to an assembly of high school students. I was in a room waiting to give my presentation. In the room were two young ladies. They were dressed in letter sweaters from White Pine County High School. One of them was named Lauren and the other was Casandra.

While waiting, I struck up a conversation with these two young ladies. I asked them what sports they participated in. One of them ran track. She told me she had won the summer tournament in sprints. The other girl said she participated in softball.

So we carried on our conversation for a short period of time. As I was getting ready to go in, one of the young ladies said, "Senator I don't know what I would do without my sports."

Mr. President, these two young ladies' ability to participate in athletics is as a result of something that the Federal Government has done.

I started a series of speeches last summer on the Senate floor to discuss the good things that happen in Government. We tend to dwell on the negative, rather than the positive aspects of Government. I talked about how proud I was that we have our National Park System with great parks like Yellowstone, Yosemite, Grand Canyon, and the other great entities that are the envy of the world.

I talked about the Federal Emergency Management Agency, what a great job they have done in Nevada, and how proud I was of the work they had done in the State of Nevada during the recent floods. They are, of course, in every newspaper and on every news program because of the work they are doing with the floods of North Dakota and South Dakota right now.

I talked about the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and about the great work they do to make the marketplace safer for us.

I also talked about the great work that 25,000 men and women engage in every summer in fighting forest fires, principally in the Western part of the United States. They do very courageous things, such as jumping out of helicopters with backpacks weighing almost 100 pounds, and rappelling off the back of helicopters.

These are Government programs. We should acknowledge them. The Federal Government has its shortcomings, and I am the first to acknowledge that. But let's not dwell on the shortcomings. Let's talk about some of the good things that happen.

That is the reason I am here today; to talk about one of the programs that the Federal Government initiated that I think is good. I am here to speak about title IX, enacted as part of the Education Act Amendments of 1972, which gives women and girls equal rights in education and in athletics.

Just a couple of months ago we celebrated the 11th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day. We had all kinds of star female athletes come here

to The Mall in Washington to celebrate the accomplishments of women in sports and to commemorate the upcoming anniversary of title IX.

I think this Federal statute is an example of good Government. What we attempted to do in this legislation is level the playing field for all Americans.

Title IX is an example of Government funding providing just such an opportunity in America. We have not reached the goal of equity for men and women in high school and college athletics. But we have come a tremendous way as indicated, in my opinion, by Lauren and Casandra telling me about their enthusiastic participation in rural Nevada athletics.

So as we approach the 25th anniversary of title IX this June we can be proud of the accomplishments made under this law while looking ahead to the goal of equal treatment for men and women in education and in sports.

In 1972, when this law went into effect, about 1 out of every 30 girls in high school played sports. Today it is 1 in 3. Now women account for 34 percent of athletic participants in high school and college sports.

In 1972, just a small amount of money was spent nationwide on athletic scholarships for women—less than \$100,000. Today it is approaching \$200 million. Fifty-five percent of women participate in high school sports.

A recent USA Today analysis of 303 NCAA Division I schools found that women comprised 37 percent of all athletes at these schools. There has been an increase even since 1992 in girls participating in college athletics. It is up over 20 percent.

It is a great accomplishment to have one of your children graduate from college. I have had that opportunity with my children. But it is also a great thrill to watch your children participate in athletics at the high school level and at the college level. Only one of my children has participated in athletics at the college level. But that was a great thrill for me to watch my young boy play on three national NCAA championship teams on three separate occasions. He played soccer at the University of Virginia, where they were national champions. Girls should have the same opportunity that my son had to play Division I and Division II college athletics.

Nationwide, 7 million women of all ages play soccer. The number of NCAA Division I women's soccer teams has increased from 22 in 1982 to over 200 now. That is a significant increase. Thanks to title IX, more women are going to college, more women are getting scholarships, and more women are playing sports at a competitive level.

I have always been one that supported college athletics. While some criticize competitive athletics in college, I think they are great. Athletics allows people who would never have set foot within a university campus to get an education. They don't always graduate, even though the graduation rates

are increasing, but it gives them the opportunity to be someplace where they ordinarily would not be able to go. That is good. It should also allow women the opportunity to go to college because of their athletic abilities. Title IX is helping women get athletic scholarships that they would not have gotten just a few years ago. This is important and good for the country and for education generally.

What are the benefits of sports for women and for girls? Women and girls achieve numerous benefits from participating in athletics. In my opinion, with our society becoming increasingly more sedentary, we need to increase physical activity and athletics for all of our citizens—not just for boys but also for girls.

Getting young ladies involved in sports improves their health and well-being, and increases the likelihood they will stick with athletics and exercise throughout their lives.

In addition to the general health benefits of physical activity, a study conducted at the Harvard University's Graduate School of Public Health showed that young women who participated in college sports were significantly—and I stress that—less likely to contract breast cancer and other reproductive cancers.

There are other benefits. Participation in athletics benefits young women in the same way that it benefits young men. Participation in sports has been found to increase the self-esteem of girls and boys.

Mr. President, one of my older boys played football in high school. I was talking on the telephone to one of my friends who had been a college athlete. He and I played ball together in high school. I was concerned that a boy from my son's team had just gone to the hospital with some football injury. And my friend, who is now a veterinarian, told me, "HARRY, athletics builds character. He may have gone to an emergency room. He is home now. Stick it out. Athletics builds character." That it does.

I believe, for those that I have seen participate in athletics generally, it is a character builder. It should be a character builder not only for young men but also for young women.

I believe, as I said, that athletics increases self-esteem of girls and boys. High school athletes have higher graduation rates than nonathletes. Female athletes also have lower dropout rates than nonathletes.

Studies reveal that girls involved in sports are more likely to aspire to be leaders in their communities. Expanding sports opportunities for women and girls will help more women in their leadership roles and help them to lead successful adult lives. If it is true for men, then it should be true for women.

Further, increased opportunity for women in sports increases exposure for women's athletics, and makes it possible for more women to make a career of sports.

Mr. President, the NCAA women's basketball championship this year was a sellout. The women's—not men's but women's—college basketball championship was a sellout. They played great basketball.

When I go home I love to watch women's softball. Last year UNLV was ranked in the top five of the Nation. It was exciting to watch these young women play fast pitch softball. I am sure, if you brought the men's baseball players over to play these young women in softball, that the men would lose. These young women are good. I like to watch women's basketball too. It is just as entertaining as men's. Title IX has played an important role in providing opportunities for women to excel in athletics.

It is important to stress, however, that the intent of title IX was not to cut men's programs but merely to bring women's programs up to the level that they ought to be. This costs money, and many schools aren't willing to shell out this money. Subsequently, title IX has gotten some negative reaction from schools who have limited funds.

Mr. President, I think it is important to note that schools are trying to comply. For example, the University of Nevada at Las Vegas developed a compliance action plan to make changes and work toward compliance with title IX. They have submitted a plan that will put girls athletics at UNLV on a par with male athletics by the year 2001. Their plan is to increase female athletic participation opportunities—scholarship and nonscholarship—by a minimum of 100 over the next 5 years. They are going to add women's soccer in 1998 and add another women's sport in the year 2001. They are going to provide medical support, training and equipment to meet these additional needs; and provide new funding, up to \$4 million over the next 5 years, to meet these gender equity needs.

UNLV doesn't currently meet any of the tests for title IX compliance, but they are working at it to the benefit of Nevada's athletes, and I think to education generally.

Mr. President, compliance with title IX is not unreasonable, nor is it impossible. Seven NCAA Division I schools meet the proportionality test, where the percentage of female athletes is within five points of female undergraduates.

Among the schools in compliance are Dartmouth, Lehigh, the University of Massachusetts, Harvard, and Montana State.

So it is not all of these eastern schools. It can be done, if people try. Obviously, Montana State was interested in complying, and they accomplished that.

Even the most basic efforts that schools make toward compliance with title IX have started a nationwide boom in women's sports.

I talked about basketball. But as more women have entered athletics

they have not displaced men. Instead the total number of athletes has increased. There has been an ongoing struggle. We have had case decisions in the U.S. Supreme Court. On Monday, April 21, the Supreme Court declined to review a case filed by Brown University where they wanted to test the Constitutionality of title IX.

The Supreme Court would not even consider the case. As a result of that, we are going forward with more proportionality. We are going to make an even playing field.

Because of these positive outcomes, title IX must be supported and enforced because it is good government. Somewhere out there are future female professional athletes and Olympic gold medalists who may never jump a hurdle or pick up a ball if their families, coaches, and schools do not give them the opportunity and the encouragement to play sports. These girls and women who are the champions of the future must be supported. Title IX is vital to that effort.

(Ms. COLLINS assumed the chair.)

#### CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. REID. Madam President, when I came to the Senate about 11 years ago, one of the first things I did was come to the Senate floor and talk about the need for campaign finance reform. I thought it would come very quickly. I could not believe, with all the problems that occurred during that election cycle, including what happened in my election in the State of Nevada 11 years ago, we would not rush to reform the way we elect Senators and Members of the House of Representatives.

The problems were replete, with the Federal Election Commission being really a toothless tiger. They had no money to enforce the rules and the laws that existed. Much to my chagrin and, frankly, much to my surprise, 11 years later we have done nothing, zero. In fact, things have even gotten worse. Why? Because the Supreme Court, among other things, declared that any money that goes to a State party cannot be regulated. So this last cycle, even though we had Federal law to the effect that there would be no corporate money in Federal elections since the early part of this century, the Supreme Court stood that on its head, and suddenly not only do we have the problems we have had with a myriad of people trying to skirt the law, now we have the fact that you can use corporate money in Federal elections.

I think that is wrong. I think it is too bad that we have not done something. That is why I am here today to commend and applaud Senators FEINGOLD and MCCAIN for their courageous work on campaign finance reform. I am a cosponsor of that legislation. I do not agree with every jot and tittle, every line and verse within that legislation, but it is a step in the right direction, and I happily joined in cosponsoring that legislation. Why? Because it is going to do some things—it