

According to the Tufts University Center on Hunger, Poverty and Nutrition Policy, evidence from recent research about child nutrition shows that, in addition to having a detrimental effect on the cognitive development of children, undernutrition results in lost knowledge, brainpower, and productivity.

Hunger and insecurity about whether a family will be able to obtain enough food to avoid hunger, also have an emotional impact on children and their parents. Anxiety, negative feelings about self-worth, and hostility toward the outside world can result from chronic hunger and food insecurity.

The food stamp is designed to reach those families most in need and there is plenty of evidence that the children most at risk of hunger are in poor or low-income families. A 1996-study reported about 6.1 million children under 6 were living in poverty in 1994. An additional 4.8 million young children lived near the poverty line, according to Columbia University's National Center for Children in Poverty. Sixty-two percent of poor children lived with at least one parent or relative who worked. Fewer than one-third of the children's families relied exclusively on welfare. The poverty rate grew fastest among Hispanic children, rising 43 percent since 1979, compared with a 38-percent rise among white children and 19 percent among black children.

Last year's reform banned legal immigrant families with dependent children from food stamp benefits. This amendment is about restoring critical food assistance to those children. We cannot say we are for children and then turn our backs on legal immigrant children. This amendment is reasonable. It's paid for and it makes imminent sense.●

DECISION STRIKING DOWN PART OF BRADY LAW

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise to discuss today's Brady law decision, in which a deeply divided Supreme Court put judicial activism over public safety. At a time when the United States leads the world in gun carnage, surely the Federal Government is entitled to enlist the aid of States to keep guns out of the hands of felons, illegal immigrants, and the criminally insane. Asking local police to conduct background checks—and nothing more—hardly amounts to a Federal power grab, as the majority has claimed. Instead, the majority's opinion should make us fear what the Supreme Court could do next.

Will the Court prohibit Congress from requiring States to report missing children? Will it bar Congress from requiring states to get lead out of school drinking water? Will it stop Congress from requiring States to publicly disclose where hazardous waste is being stored?

All of these requirements are now current law, and all of them are now in peril.

We will have to consider these troubling issues in the future. But as for today, this decision alone is hardly a

fatal blow to the Brady law itself. Since its enactment, Brady background checks have stopped over 186,000 persons from obtaining guns. And these Brady checks will continue for two reasons. First, virtually all of the police officers we have spoken to say they will continue to do the Brady check voluntarily—even if they are not required to do so. The reason why is simple: they know these checks save lives. Second, the provision struck down by the Court only relates to the so-called interim Brady law. By the end of next year, Brady requires that a permanent instant check system be implemented. And that system, operated by Federal officials, will be immune from constitutional challenge.

Still, the Supreme Court's misguided decision opens up the possibility that, before the instant check system becomes fully operational, a handful of rogue police officers will refuse to do background checks. As a result of such inaction, at least a few felons will commit violent crimes with guns they never should have been able to obtain.

For this reason, we are working with the President to draft legislation that will ensure 100 percent Brady compliance—for example, by allowing gun dealers to obtain background checks from any police chief in their State, not just the chief in the jurisdiction where the buyer resides. Because the vast majority of police will continue to conduct Brady checks voluntarily, this approach will clearly preserve our no check, no sale policy.

Mr. President, today's Supreme Court ruling, while unfortunate, does not take away from how effective the Brady law has been or will be. But it is nevertheless a bad decision that will hurt us in our fight against crime. We'll introduce bipartisan legislation to fix it, and I hope my colleagues will support our efforts.●

GARRETT RUSSELL

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a remarkable young man from the city of Midland, MI. Garrett Russell, an 8-year-old second grade student at Siebert Elementary School, collected more than 100 bicycles and \$25,000 worth of toys to give to victims of the flooding in Grand Forks, ND.

When Garrett saw footage of the flooding he was immediately moved into action. He asked his classmates to help him provide toys to the thousands of the children in Grand Forks who were forced to leave their belongings behind as they fled from their homes. Word of Garrett's "Kids Helping Kids" campaign spread quickly and caught the imagination of the generous people of the Tri-City area. Donations arrived daily, reaching a total of more than 3,000 toys and 100 bicycles.

Garrett, his sister Elise, and his parents, Dean and Kathy Russell, loaded the toys into a truck and drove to Grand Forks to distribute them to the

children there. Lutheran Social Services of Grand Forks held a festival on Saturday, June 14, 1997, at which Garrett gave away most of the toys to the 1,200 children who attended. The following day, Garrett and his family gave the rest of the toys away as they visited the homes of families who had lost almost everything they owned.

Garrett has received praise from many people since he began his campaign to brighten the spirits of the children of Grand Forks, especially from his classmates and from the people who benefited from his endeavors. The Midland Daily News quoted his friend, 7-year-old Anna Brown, who said, "I think it was generous of him because most kids don't start a campaign just because they see something on the news." Grand Forks resident Judy Holweger, whose son, Joel, received a bicycle at the festival, said, "It really lifts these kids' spirits. They've lost a lot." Garrett's schoolmate, Claire Liang, may have put it best when she said, "Not everyone has a big heart like Garrett."

We can all take inspiration from Garrett Russell's example of generosity and selflessness. I know my colleagues join me in commending Garrett for his outstanding accomplishments, and in wishing the people of Grand Forks, as well as all those affected by the flooding this spring, a speedy and complete recovery.●

KIRSTEN FROHNMAYER

● Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Kirsten Frohnmayer. Kirsten, the daughter of University of Oregon president Dave Frohnmayer and his wife Lynn, died last week after a courageous battle with Fanconi anemia, a rare genetic disease that also claimed the life of her sister, Katie.

Kirsten lived much of her 24 years on Earth with the knowledge that she was battling a vicious disease. Yet she never gave up, and she never allowed herself to wallow in despair. Rather, as her family and friends have testified, she maintained an optimistic spirit that inspired countless men, women, and children. Kirsten also willingly volunteered to undergo experimental medical procedures, in hopes that others with the same disease might benefit from what doctors learned through the procedure.

Mr. President, the Eugene Register Guard recently published an eloquent tribute to Kirsten which contains her own inspiring words. I ask that this tribute be printed in the RECORD immediately following my remarks.

Mr. President, let me conclude by simply saying that the entire State of Oregon joins with me in extending our thoughts and prayers to the entire Frohnmayer family.

The tribute follows: