

collect his prize. Another example: a Maine company showed real telemarketing creativity. For \$250, the so-called Consumer Advocate Group offered to help consumers recover money lost to fraudulent telemarketers—but it provided no services, according to Wisconsin Attorney General James Doyle, who sued the Maine firm plus four other telemarketers.

In 1996, more than 400 individuals were arrested by law-enforcement officials working on Operation Senior Sentinel. Retired law-enforcement officers and volunteers, recruited by AARP, went undercover to record sales pitches from dishonest telemarketers. Volunteers from the 2-year-long Operation Senior Sentinel discovered various telemarketing schemes. Some people were victimized by phony charities or investment schemes. Others were taken in by so-called premium promotions in which people were guaranteed one of four or five valuable prizes but were induced to buy an overpriced product in exchange for a cheap prize. One of the most vicious scams preyed on those who had already lost money. Some telemarketers charged a substantial fee to recover money for those who had been victimized previously—and proceeded to renege on the promised assistance. By the time the dust settled, it took the Justice Department, the FBI, the FTC, a dozen U.S. attorneys and state attorneys general, the Postal Service, the IRS, and the Secret Service to arrest over 400 telemarketers in five states, including my home state of Arizona.

Clearly telemarketing fraud is on the rise. It is estimated that eight out of ten households are targets for telemarketing scams that bilk us of up to \$40 billion annually. There are many seniors in my state and across the country who must be protected against this type of fraudulent activity. According to Attorney General Reno, it is not uncommon for senior citizens to receive as many as five or more high-pressure phone calls a day. Mr. President, malicious criminal activity like this must be punished appropriately.

#### THE HOUSE- AND SENATE-PASSED BILLS

The House and the Senate have passed bills which direct the U.S. Sentencing Commission to increase penalties for those who purposefully defraud vulnerable members of our society. The House bill, which passed by a voice vote, increases sentences by four levels for general telemarketing fraud, and by eight levels if the telemarketing fraud either victimized ten or more persons over age 55 or targeted persons over age 55.

The Senate-passed bill, which was approved unanimously, requires the Sentencing Commission to "provide for substantially increased penalties" for those convicted of telemarketing fraud offenses. I repeat: "substantially increased penalties." This language was carefully chosen; a two level increase is not substantial. The Senate-passed bill also requires the Commission to

"provide an additional appropriate sentencing enhancement if the offense involved sophisticated means, including but not limited to sophisticated concealment efforts, such as perpetrating the offense from outside the United States." Further, the Senate-passed bill requires the Commission to provide an additional appropriate sentencing enhancement for cases in which a large number of vulnerable victims . . . are affected by a fraudulent scheme or schemes." These provisions were carefully crafted to ensure that those perpetrating telemarketing scams would be severely punished.

#### THE SENTENCING COMMISSION'S PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS

The United States Sentencing Commission recently issued an amendment that would increase by two offense levels—the smallest possible increase—the penalties for fraud offenses that use mass-marketing to carry out fraud. The amendment would also provide a two level enhancement in the fraud guideline if (i) the defendant relocated, or participated in relocating, a fraudulent scheme to another jurisdiction to evade law enforcement or regulatory officials; (ii) a substantial part of a fraudulent scheme was committed from outside the United States; or (iii) the offense otherwise involved sophisticated concealment.

These proposed amendments are a step in the right direction, but the step is too small. In addition to these enhancements, the Sentencing Commission should, as the Senate-passed bill says, substantially increase the penalties for telemarketing fraud.

#### CONCLUSION

Telemarketing fraud is a serious problem. The Sentencing Guidelines should reflect this but they do not. From the House- and Senate-passed bills, it should have been clear to the Sentencing Commission that Congress wanted significant increases in the guidelines, not the minor ones included in the Commission's proposed amendments.●

#### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RETIRING PRESIDENT, BECKY CAIN

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Becky Cain as she prepares to retire from an outstanding six year term as president of the League of Women Voters. Becky Cain has shown remarkable leadership for the League and her community of Charleston, West Virginia as well as a strong dedication for the well being of the people of her state and her nation.

For generations, the League of Women Voters has had a tradition of working for campaign finance reform, defending the National Voter Registration Act, working for consumer protection legislation for health care, ensuring health care for seniors by protecting and enhancing Medicare, and protecting Clean Air standards, and strengthening the United Nations by

providing adequate funding. This is an organization of leaders, and Becky Cain is certainly a great leader among leaders.

As the volunteer head of the League of Women Voters, Becky Cain has been an articulate and committed spokesperson for citizens' interest in government. Under her direction, the League has been the leader in the passage of the National Voter Registration Act and has been stalwart in continuing efforts to preserve and strengthen this important legislation.

Under her leadership one of the priorities of the League has been a comprehensive, nationwide campaign entitled, "Making Democracy Work." This effort, involving different branches of the League and civic leaders in over 1,000 communities across the nation, is a long term effort to engage citizens in the important issues affecting them, to strengthen our democracy at the community level as well as bringing a diverse group of citizens together to face a larger challenge that faces us as a nation.

Finally, I would like to thank Becky Cain and volunteers like her who give of themselves so selflessly for the good of their community, their state, and our nation.●

#### RUTHERFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

● Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, on May 30, the Rutherford Elementary School Memorial Committee commemorated the history of the Rutherford Elementary School. I rise today to mark the closing of this building.

The community of Rutherford has been served for 89 years by the current elementary school, which is scheduled for demolition. Amidst music, civic organizational displays, and food vendors, students past and present gathered to reflect on their childhood experiences. Members of Rutherford's first class still fondly reminisce about the "good old days."

Mr. President, the Rutherford Elementary School symbolizes strength and continuity in education. I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this memorial.●

#### TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF GREENWICH SCHOOL AGED CHILD CARE, INC.

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to today in honor of the tenth anniversary of the founding of Greenwich School Age Child Care in my home state of Connecticut.

As you know, child care has been a top legislative priority for me during my tenure in the Senate. After numerous hearings, debates, forums, and even passage of the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act that I authored in 1990, I know that our country's working families continue to struggle with the issue of child care. Thousands of low-income children are