The reports that were in the initial proposal that are not included in the bill as passed by the House have been reviewed by both houses of Congress and considered necessary and useful to the Congress in its oversight responsibilities.

Reports elimination is not a new area of interest in Congress. This is the third piece of legislation we have passed in the last 15 years to eliminate or modify wasteful reporting requirements. Just three years ago, in 1995, Senator MCCAIN and I introduced and got enacted Public Law 104–66, the ''Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995,'' which eliminated or modified 207 reports. Section 3003 of Public Law 104–66, contains a provision for the termination of all annual, semiannual, or other regular periodic reporting requirements, subject to some exceptions, 4 years after the date of enactment. The bill was enacted into law on December 21, 1995, which means that effective December 21, 1999, reports listed in the House No. 103–7, that are not exempt from termination, will be automatically eliminated on December 21st of next year. Committees and Members should be on notice that if there are reporting requirements now in law that they want to continue that are annual, semiannual or periodic, those reporting requirements will have to be reenacted before the 1999 deadline. It will require an affirmative act of legislation to continue those reporting requirements. While it is important to eliminate wasteful and unnecessary reports, it is equally important to continue those reporting requirements that we think are essential to the work of the Congress. I urge my colleagues to be alert to this upcoming deadline.

Mr. President, I thank Senator MCCAIN for his excellent work in helping to get today's legislation passed. I also want to thank Myla Edwards of my office who handled this bill for us as a legislative fellow. Ensuring that this bill covers the intended reporting requirements is tedious work, and Myla demonstrated the care, patience, and commitment necessary to get a bill like this passed.

AMENDMENT NO. 3836

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur with the amendment of the House, with a further amendment by Senator MCCAIN, which is at the desk.

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

The text of the amendment is as follows:

In section 1501, strike subsections (f) through (h).

AMENDING TITLE 28, U.S. CODE, WITH RESPECT TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION ORDERS.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4164, and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4164) to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the enforcement of child custody and visitation orders.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 3837

(Purpose: To propose a substitute)

Mr. LOTT. Senator HATCH has a substitute amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT), for Mr. HATCH and Mr. BIDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 3837.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. CHILD CUSTODY.

(a) SECTION 1738A(a).—Section 1738A(a) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''subsection (f) of this section, any child custody determination'' and inserting ''subsections (f), (g), and (h) of this section, any custody determination or visitation determination''.

(b) SECTION 1738A(b)(2).—Section 1738A(b)(2) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting ''or grandparent'' after ''parent''.

(c) SECTION 1738A(b)(3).—Section 1738A(b)(3) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''or visitation'' after ''for the custody''.

(d) SECTION 1738A(b)(5).—Section 1738A(b)(5) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''custody determination'' each place it occurs and inserting ''custody or visitation determination''.

(e) SECTION 1738A(b)(9).—Section 1738A(b) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''and'' at the end of paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end of paragraph (8) and inserting ''; and'', and by adding after paragraph (8) the following:

''(9) 'visitation determination' means a judgment, decree, or other order of a court providing for the visitation of a child and includes permanent and temporary orders and initial orders and modifications.''.

(f) SECTION 1738A(c).—Section 1738A(c) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''custody determination'' and inserting ''custody or visitation determination''.

(g) SECTION 1738A(c)(2)(D).—Section 1738A(c)(2)(D) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding ''or visitation'' after ''determine the custody''.

(h) SECTION 1738A(d).—Section 1738A(d) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''custody determination'' and inserting ''custody or visitation determination''.

(i) SECTION 1738A(e).—Section 1738A(e) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''custody determination'' and inserting ''custody or visitation determination''.

(j) SECTION 1738A(g).—Section 1738A(g) of title 28, United States Code, is amended by striking ''custody determination'' and inserting ''custody or visitation determination''.

(k) SECTION 1738A(h).—Section 1738A of title 28, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(h) A court of a State may not modify a visitation determination made by a court of another State unless the court of the other State no longer has jurisdiction to modify such determination or has declined to exercise jurisdiction to modify such determination.''.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate today is passing the Hatch-Biden-Lautenberg substitute amendment to H.R. 4164, and I am hopeful that the other body will take up and pass the measure before Congress adjourns for the year.

What this legislation does is simple. Under current federal law, states must give full faith and credit to the child custody orders of another state. A custody order is defined as including a visitation order. However, as evidence from around the country has shown, state courts often do not automatically recognize visitation orders, particularly when it is a visitation order for someone other than the child's parent, such as a grandparent. State courts are supposed to honor such orders, but it is often an arduous process getting them to do so.

This legislation simply clarifies that the full faith and credit law includes visitation orders. We want it to be absolutely clear to state courts that a state visitation order entered consistently with the provisions of the federal full faith and credit statute must be given full faith and credit by all other states. In a narrow legal sense, it does nothing different than current federal law. But, by making that law more explicit, it hopefully will eliminate the hassles, obstacles, and delays that too often confront those who have valid visitation orders and are asking only that federal law be followed.

Mr. President, the author of this idea was Representative ROB ANDREWS of New Jersey, who deserves credit for bringing this issue to our attention. From the day in 1997 when he introduced his bill on visitation orders, he has been tireless in pushing for its passage. I commend him and congratulate him.

Finally, I want to thank Senator HATCH for his willingness to move this bill in the final days of the session. There is a lot of pressing work to be done, and this issue could have got lost in the final crunch. But, the chairman and his staff were very gracious in working with me to pass this bill.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The amendment (No. 3837) was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 4164), as amended, was considered read the third time, and passed.