

productive. But involve the parents of the children who receive services so that the parents can be more involved in the development and the well-being of their children, so it is not just one shot at trying to fix the problem, but a continuing of trying to fix the problem both through the counseling services to the children and assistance with the parents.

Teachers focus more on a student's skills at writing and arithmetic, rather than their potential for violence, because they do not have the support that they need, because their classroom sizes are too large, and they don't have the time to devote to it. I plead with my colleagues that we must get back to the business at hand, and that business is the well-being of the children of this country who are our future.

I urge Congress to act quickly, and I certainly want to devote the time to this important issue that we have begun to do and I hope we will continue. I just plead with my colleagues to remember that what we are dealing with in this legislation is our Nation's greatest resource—our children.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio is recognized.

AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH ON JUVENILE CRIME

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, this week in the Senate, we are discussing legislation that is meant to address the seemingly ever-growing problem of juvenile crime. Before we despair, let us recognize that the overwhelming majority of young people in America are good kids and don't get into trouble with the law and are making a substantial contribution to our society. In fact, in my State of Ohio, the adjudications of young people are down as well as incarceration of young offenders.

However, most Americans cannot turn on television, read a newspaper, or pick up a magazine without being told about the crisis facing our society because of young people who have turned violent. The fact that this problem exists at all is a sad commentary on our modern society. However, it is a reality, and we have got to deal with it. The question is, How do we deal with it? As we in Congress try to answer that question we have to make sure that we take the time to deal with juvenile crime from the proper perspective.

We cannot expect there to be a silver bullet or a quick fix that will solve our problems, although the recent tragedy in Littleton, CO, has intensified the urgency and our search for answers.

Naturally, part of the solution to juvenile crimes is traditional crime prevention, penalties and sentences. However, these remedies, while important, only treat the symptoms of the disease and not the disease itself. I believe our focus should not only be on the symptoms of juvenile crime, but on the root causes as well.

Two or three years ago, Princeton University Professor John DiIulio lamented over the upcoming "predator generation" because projected demographics showed a marked increase in the amount of young people who were going to become violent in our society. Professor DiIulio commented that we would have a real problem around 2010 to 2015. As Professor DiIulio stated, we have a generation, it seems, growing up in moral poverty. And that is the poverty of being without loving, capable, responsible adults who teach kids right from wrong.

Concerned about his pronouncement, I convened a juvenile crime summit in 1997 in Ohio and again in 1998, as Governor. We found that it wasn't longer sentences or boot camps or harsher penalties that were required. What we found we needed to do was to get into the lives of our children at an early age, including while they are in their mother's womb, to give them the positive influences they need.

Within the next two weeks, I will be introducing legislation along with Senator BOB GRAHAM from Florida that will help us address the needs of our children in the most critical times of their lives—pre-natal to three.

When I was Governor, I often said that if I had a magic wand to solve Ohio's problems, I would reconstitute the family.

It's the dysfunction of the family and the lack of moral and religious values that causes so many problems in our nation today.

Too often our children are groundless—they have no honor nor fear of the Lord, nor any understanding of the 10 Commandments.

I believe the best place to catch problems and prevent them from ever occurring is when children are at their youngest, when parents and young children are forming life-long attachments and when parents and other care-givers have an opportunity to construct lasting values.

Government is a lousy substitute for the family. Unfortunately, there are circumstances where the government is the only alternative because there is no family in place.

In these situations, we must look for the most effective way to give them our assistance.

I truly believe there is something we can do to help in that respect.

Today, thanks to decades of research on brain chemistry and through the utilization of sophisticated new technologies, neuro-scientists are telling us that the experiences that fill a baby's first days, months, and years have a decisive impact on the development of the brain and on the nature and extent of one's adult capacities.

As a result of the research, we know that throughout the entire process of development, beginning before birth, the brain is affected by environmental conditions such as nourishment, nurturing and sensory stimulation; early childhood care has a decisive and long-

lasting impact on how people develop their ability to learn, and their capacity to regulate their own emotions; there are times when negative experiences—or the absence of appropriate stimulation—are more likely to have serious and sustained effects, the period of prenatal to three is such a time in a child's development; the human brain has a remarkable capacity to change, but timing is crucial and the first three years of life appear to be the most influential period for growth and change.

To ensure that children prenatal to three have the best possible start in life, we must establish specific support mechanisms to help parents and other adult care-givers. We have to become better partners.

These include health care, nutrition programs, childcare, early intervention services, adoption assistance, education programs, and other support services.

We must also reach out to parents—our children's first teachers and care-givers—to help them understand that the day-to-day interaction with children helps them to develop cognitively, socially and emotionally.

A mother comforting her crying baby, a father holding and reading to his toddler and a care-giver singing and playing with an infant are not just involved in "feel-good" interactions.

They are involved in biological activities that exert a powerful, enduring impact on the young child's physical, intellectual, emotional and social development.

Mr. President, you know, with your large family, that these positive early childhood experiences give children a jump-start or a life-long learning opportunity.

It is imperative that our nationwide education agenda be geared toward ensuring that children enter school ready to learn. Otherwise, we put our children at a grave disadvantage of not being well-rounded and productive members of society.

In 1991, in my first State of the State Address, I drew a line in the sand in Ohio and said that this was going to be the last generation of children to go on welfare, go to jail, to get pregnant while they are teenagers.

We make a commitment to Head Start, to enroll as many eligible children as possible and increasing the funding for that program from \$18.4 million in fiscal year 1990 to \$181.3 million in fiscal year 1998.

And, the fact of the matter is that today in Ohio, we have a slot for every child who is eligible for Head Start, public school, pre-school or special needs. Ohio leads the nation—and does so primarily with state tax dollars.

In addition, we established Early Start, which was designed to provide early intervention services for children from pre-natal to three who are at significant risk of abuse, neglect or future developmental delay. It's just a fantastic program.

I believe a Federal investment in our children at the most critical juncture of their lives—pre-natal to three—will do more to end the cycle of crime and violence in America than anything else the Senate could do.

Studies looking at resiliency in adolescents are finding that a stable beginning contributes significantly to the youth's ability to take control and turn their life around.

During consideration of this juvenile justice legislation, we have considered, and may still consider, controversial proposals associated with this bill that elicit either solid support of deep opposition.

Yet, when it comes time to consider our legislation to provide enhanced prenatal-to-3 services, I am hopeful that proposal will receive support from both sides of the aisle.

I will speak again on this issue when I introduce our legislation in the next 2 weeks.

However, with the context of the floor debate, I could not pass up this opportunity to express my views on how best we can get to the root of juvenile crime in this country.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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. VOINOVICH. 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. HATCH. Mr. President. During the debate over juvenile crime, we have heard a lot about the negative activities that juveniles participate in—playing violent video games, viewing unseemly sites on the Internet, and watching objectionable movies. But little has been said about the constructive things that kids can be—and are—doing with their time. It seems, sometimes, that there are few alternatives to the pollution that modern culture often feeds to our children.

However, in my home state of Utah there are many programs that help children to focus their attention away from destructive activities. For example, the Police Athletic League in Ogden, Utah provides sports lessons and intramural teams for 325 kids. Police officers serve as mentors to children and supply much needed attention through athletic activities.

The Hispanic Cultural Youth Program in Utah holds dances and social events that present a safe place for youth to socialize. And the LDS church has an extensive youth program that provides social events, educational activities, mentoring and community service activities.

I want my colleagues to be aware of an excellent program in Arizona that gives juveniles positive alternatives to the destructive activities that contribute to juvenile crime. "Kid-Star"

Radio 590 AM, in Phoenix, allows children to produce, broadcast, and promote their own radio shows. Perry Damone, son of my good friend Vic Damone, has founded this program that places radio stations in the public schools and allows the children to control the broadcast. The kids run the entire program and have had phenomenal success with it. Over 3,000 students throughout Arizona have participated in the program. Individual schools report an almost immediate improvement in over-all student responsibility, and better written and oral skills.

Under this program, the students have conducted numerous interviews with prominent individuals including country singer Garth Brooks, comedian Jay Leno and our esteemed colleague Senator JOHN MCCAIN. Children have emerged from this program with a better self-esteem, greater maturity, and life skills.

In S. 254, the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act of 1999, the Federal Government is required to disseminate data on prevention programs that are successful. This bill provides over \$1 billion a year to the States to fight juvenile crime and prevent juvenile delinquency. This money will help the Department of Justice isolate and encourage successful prevention programs. Programs like the Police Athletic League, the Hispanic Cultural Youth Program, and "Kid-Star" should receive our special attention and be encouraged to continue the good work that they do.

As we continue to search for solutions to juvenile crime, let's remember the best solutions come from individuals working on a local level to make a difference. We can learn much from these initiatives on behalf of our children. I am extremely enthusiastic about the programs I have mentioned and hope the positive benefits of programs such as this can be extended to the entire Nation.

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA DMV DEMONSTRATES IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIONAL MOTOR VEHICLE TITLE INFORMATION SYSTEM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I rise to thank the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators for hosting a demonstration of the National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) today in Arlington, Virginia.

Staff representing Senators from both sides of the aisle were shown how the national titling information system will allow participating states to track a motor vehicle from essentially birth to death. NMVTIS will let DMVs and consumers know where a vehicle was previously titled and which, if any, brands have been associated with the vehicle. It will also let law enforcement know if a vehicle being registered or titled is stolen. Again, this is crucial

disclosure information for states, car buyers, and police forces across the country.

It is a system that is consistent with advances in technology. One that allows states to share information over the wire. NMVTIS makes a great deal of sense as state governments move to paperless systems and greater use of the Internet to share information with their citizenry.

Mr. President, Congress directed the establishment of NMVTIS as part of the Anti-Car Theft Act of 1992. In part, to curtail motor vehicle theft, but also to allow states to share "real time" up-to-date vehicle information.

It is clear though, that the effectiveness of a national titling information system depends on maximum state participation. Congress knew this when it authorized incentive grants to encourage states to use the system. A minimum of \$300,000 is available to a state to offset its implementation costs.

Virginia, often a technology leader, embraced NMVTIS early and agreed to be the first state to pilot test the system. It will have the system online at all DMVs this June. Indiana, Massachusetts, Florida, and Arizona are also in the process of implementing NMVTIS. Kentucky and New Hampshire are not far behind. Both states submitted formal grant applications to the Department of Justice which oversees NMVTIS. Additionally, a number of states have also sent letters of interest and are hopeful to obtain startup funding this year. These include: Alabama, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia.

It is expected that 21 states will be full partners in the national titling system by 2000 and that all states will choose to participate in the system by 2003.

Mr. President, I congratulate Virginia and the other participating states for leading the way. NMVTIS is one significant tool that will be used to combat title fraud and vehicle theft. With NMVTIS, and appropriate and workable uniform salvage vehicle titling definitions and standards, consumers across the country will have the kind of disclosure detail they need to make informed purchase decisions.

Somewhere down the road, consumers will be able to conduct vehicle queries and get "real time" vehicle history information from their home computers.

Mr. President, the 106th Congress does not need to put roadblocks in the way. My colleagues must reject any proposal that would jeopardize full nationwide implementation of this much needed system. Instead, this Congress must do everything it can to maintain the vitality of NMVTIS. For America's motorists, for car purchasers, and for all 50 states.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an