

The American Red Cross is implementing increased donor recruitment initiatives to help offset these trends including:

1. Scheduling more blood drives, as well as expanding the hours of existing blood drives;
2. Pilot-testing an Internet-based system to enable people to schedule blood donation appointment online;
3. Utilizing aggressive telemarketing and direct-mail campaigns to encourage previous blood donors to come back and schedule an appointment;
4. Paying for advertising and working with the news media in markets nationwide to get this critical message to potential donors;
5. Establishing a pilot "urban blood donor center" in Chicago to make it easier for people working in downtown areas to donate blood during the business day.

We are excited about these new efforts and hope that they will allow us to reach more prospective donors than ever before. However, the fact remains that we need help now to address the current blood shortage. I want to encourage everyone, from students returning to school, to people who haven't donated blood in a while to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE today to schedule an appointment. We need you now. Don't forget, 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

THE HAGUE CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, countless Americans will welcome the news that the Senate last night ratified the Treaty of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. This Treaty was approved by our Foreign Relations Committee in April.

In addition, the Senate also approved unanimous final passage of the Intercountry Adoption Implementation Act—which was likewise unanimously approved by the House of Representatives this past Monday.

I offered the Intercountry Adoption Implementation act a year ago—along with Senator LANDRIEU, because this legislation will provide, for the first time, a rational structure for intercountry adoption.

Mr. President, this significant legislation is intended to build some accountability into agencies that provide intercountry adoption services in the United States while strengthening the hand of the Secretary of State in ensuring that U.S. adoption agencies engage in an ethical manner to find homes for children.

In addition, Mr. President, both the Senate and the House agreed that sole responsibility for implementing the requirements of the Hague Convention, rests with the U.S. Secretary of State. Although, some advocated early on, a role for various government agencies, I believe that spreading responsibility among various agencies would have undermined the effective implementation of the Hague Convention.

Mr. President, passage of this significant legislation would not have been possible without the assistance from several talented people in both the Senate and House.

In particular, of course, I extend my sincere appreciation to Senator LAN-

DRIEU (and her staff). Senator LANDRIEU and I have worked together on issues of adoption since her arrival in the Senate in 1997.

Senator BIDEN, ranking minority member of the Foreign Relations Committee, has been exceedingly helpful (as has his staff) in finalizing the Intercountry Adoption Implementation Act.

It's always a privilege to work with our colleagues in the House—and especially regarding passage of this Act. The Honorable BILL GILMAN, the distinguished chairman of the House International Relations Committee; Congressman SAM GEJDENSON, ranking minority member on the House International Relations; Congressmen DAVE CAMP and WILLIAM DELAHUNT; and, last but by no means least, my good friend, Congressman RICHARD BURR—who offered the original Senate companion bill in the House.

From my own Senate family, the former legislative counsel for the Foreign Relations Committee (now counsel for Senate Intelligence), Patricia McNerney; and Michele DeKonty, the very special lady who, in every sense, my right-hand lady.

Mr. President, this legislation now goes to President Clinton. I am hopeful that ratification and implementation of the Hague Convention will encourage more intercountry adoptions, while protecting all who are involved in the process.

DELAYS IN SENATE CONFIRMATION OF JUDICIAL NOMINEES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I regret to report to the Senate that the last confirmation hearing for federal judges held by the Judiciary Committee was in July. Throughout August and now into the third week in September, there have been no additional hearings held or even noticed. By contrast, in 1992, the last year of the Bush Administration, a Democratic majority in the Senate held three confirmation hearings in August and September and continued to work to confirm judges up to and including the last day of the session.

I also regret that the Judiciary Committee's inaction on judicial nominations has led to Senators object to Senate committees continuing to meet on other matters when the Senate is in session. The matter is most acute with regard to the numerous vacancies on our Courts of Appeals and the qualified women and men who have been stalled before this Committee.

This Judiciary Committee has reported only 3 nominees to the Courts of Appeals all year. We have held hearings without even including a nominee to the Courts of Appeals and denied a Committee vote to two outstanding nominees who succeeded in getting hearings. I certainly understand the frustration of those Senators who know that Roger Gregory, Helene White, Bonnie Campbell and others should be considered by this Com-

mittee and voted on by the Senate without additional delay.

Currently there remain more judiciary vacancies than there were when Congress adjourned in 1995. We have not even kept up with attrition over that last 5 years. Earlier this week, Senator HATCH joined with me and a dozen other Senators to introduce the Federal Judgeship Act of 2000. That legislation incorporates recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States to authorize 70 judgeships in addition to the 64 current vacancies within the federal judiciary. If those additional judgeships were taken into account, the so-called "vacancy rate" would be over 13 percent with over 130 vacancies.

We can make quick progress when we want to do so. The last group of nominees considered by the Judiciary Committee included three who were nominated on a Friday, had their hearing the next week and were approved and reported to the Senate within 6 days.

By contrast, we still have pending without a hearing qualified nominees like Judge Helene White of Michigan. She has been held hostage for over 45 months without a hearing. She is the record holder for a judicial nominee who has had to wait the longest for a hearing and her wait continues without explanation to this day.

We still have pending before the Committee, the nomination of Bonnie Campbell to the Eighth Circuit. Ms. Campbell had her hearing last May, but the Committee refuses to consider her nomination, vote her up or vote her down. Instead, there is the equivalent of an anonymous and unexplained secret hold. Bonnie Campbell is a distinguished lawyer, public servant and law enforcement officer. She was the Attorney General for the State of Iowa and the Director of the Violence Against Women Office at the United States Department of Justice. And she enjoys the full support of both of her home State Senators, Senator HARKIN and Senator GRASSLEY. I commend Senator HARKIN for his remarks on Ms. Campbell's nomination earlier today. I understand his frustration and believe that this Senate's failure to act on this highly qualified nominee is without justification.

We still have pending without a hearing the nomination of Roger Gregory of Virginia and Judge James Wynn of North Carolina to the Fourth Circuit. Were either of these highly-qualified jurists confirmed by the Senate, we would be finally acting to allow a qualified African American to sit on that Court for the first time. We still have pending before the Committee the nomination of Enrique Moreno to the Fifth Circuit. He is the latest in a succession of outstanding Hispanic nominees by President Clinton to that Court, but he too is not being considered by the Committee or the Senate.

Let me return briefly to the nomination of Roger Gregory. The Chairman of the Judiciary Committee indicated