

work, but it certainly is a major step forward.

Let me also point out several other items that are in this bill that I think are very significant. The bill also includes funds for the D.C. Safe Kids Coalition; the District's Green Door Program, which provides opportunities for people with severe and persistent mental illnesses; a program that has been called to my attention by Senator DOMENICI, Teach for America, D.C.; as well as the District's Failure Free Reading Program. There is also significant money in this bill for the Children's Hospital in the District of Columbia.

So it is a forward looking bill. It is a bill for children of the District of Columbia. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, less than a month ago, I stood before my colleagues to address an extremely important public health concern, one that is essentially a life or death issue here in the District of Columbia.

AIDS rates in our Nation's capital are the highest in the country. Nationwide, more than one third of AIDS cases are related to drug use, and substance use by a parent has led to over half of the AIDS cases among children. Statistics are more dramatic among women, where 3 out of 4 women diagnosed with AIDS became infected through their own use or a partner's use of contaminated needles.

Exhaustive scientific review has found needle exchange programs to be an effective way to slow the spread of HIV and AIDS. The American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Pediatrics, and the American Public Health Association endorse these programs. Yet in spite of the overwhelming support from public health experts, we here in Congress have prevented the District of Columbia from using its own local funds to finance these lifesaving programs since 1999. These programs currently operate in many of our home States and communities, often with the help of State and local tax receipts. Almost 95 percent of these programs refer clients to substance abuse treatment programs.

I was pleased that the District of Columbia appropriations bill passed by the Senate on November 7 eliminated this unnecessary prohibition and acknowledged the strong support these programs enjoy among both law enforcement officials and the public health community.

The conference report we are considering today does not include this crucial step forward. Instead, it maintains the irresponsible status quo, which prevents the District from using its own locally generated revenue to finance needle exchange programs. This conference report ignores Surgeon General David Satcher, who stated that "there is conclusive scientific evidence that

syringe exchange programs, as part of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy, are an effective public health intervention that reduces transmission of HIV and does not encourage the illegal use of drugs." This conference report disregards the Institute of Medicine, which identified access to sterile syringes as one of four unrealized opportunities in HIV prevention.

I have chosen to vote against this conference report because I am not willing to disregard countless medical experts who have acknowledged time and time again that needle exchange programs are an effective tool to halt the spread of HIV and AIDS, including the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association. I am not willing to ignore the tragic effect that this restriction has on children who contract HIV because one of their parents used contaminated needles. It is my sincere hope that next year we can stop politicizing this issue and recognize that the District of Columbia, just like all of our home States and districts, deserves to have all possible resources at its disposal to combat this devastating public health crisis.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. All time has expired. The question is on agreeing to the conference report.

The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) is necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 20, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 356 Leg.]

YEAS—79

Akaka	DeWine	Mikulski
Allen	Dodd	Miller
Baucus	Domenici	Murkowski
Bayh	Dorgan	Murray
Bennett	Edwards	Nelson (FL)
Biden	Feinstein	Nelson (NE)
Bingaman	Frist	Reed
Bond	Graham	Reid
Boxer	Grassley	Roberts
Breaux	Hagel	Rockefeller
Burns	Harkin	Sarbanes
Byrd	Hatch	Schumer
Campbell	Hollings	Smith (OR)
Cantwell	Inouye	Snowe
Carnahan	Jeffords	Specter
Carper	Johnson	Stabenow
Chafee	Kennedy	Stevens
Cleland	Kerry	Thomas
Clinton	Kohl	Thompson
Cochran	Landrieu	Thurmond
Collins	Leahy	Torricelli
Conrad	Levin	Voinovich
Corzine	Lieberman	Warner
Craig	Lincoln	Wellstone
Crapo	Lugar	Wyden
Daschle	McCain	
Dayton	McConnell	

NAYS—20

Allard	Ensign	Gramm
Brownback	Enzi	Gregg
Bunning	Feingold	Hutchinson
Durbin	Fitzgerald	Hutchison

Inhofe	Nickles	Shelby
Kyl	Santorum	Smith (NH)
Lott	Sessions	

NOT VOTING—1
Helms

The conference report was agreed to. Ms. LANDRIEU. Madam President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 1214

Mr. HOLLINGS. Madam President, this is a unanimous consent request to take up the Port Maritime and Rail Security Act.

I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, following consultation with the Republican leader, may proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 161, S. 1214, the Port Maritime and Rail Security Act, and when the measure is considered it be under the following limitations: That a managers' substitute amendment be in order; that the substitute amendment be considered and agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that the bill as thus amended be considered as original text for the purpose of further amendment; with no points of order waived by this agreement; that all first-degree amendments must be transportation related; that the second-degree amendments must be relevant to the first-degree amendment to which it is offered; and that upon the disposition of all amendments, the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with this action occurring with no further intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. CRAIG. Madam President, I am sorry at this time that I have to object because of the exclusive unanimous consent limitation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business with Senator STEVENS having the opportunity to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

PEARL HARBOR DAY

Mr. STEVENS. Madam President, I requested of the leadership an opportunity to speak briefly about Pearl Harbor Day.

The Senator from Hawaii would be in Pearl Harbor today, as he has been almost every time every year since he has come to the Congress.