

TITLE V: COMPASSION CAPITAL FUND

To help small community and faith-based organizations better partner with the government and serve communities in need, the bill creates a Compassion Capital Fund and authorizes four agencies to distribute its resources. HHS, DOJ, HUD and the Corporation for National and Community Service will collectively have over \$150 million to offer technical assistance to community-based organizations for activities such as writing and managing grants, assistance in incorporating and gaining tax-exempt status, information on capacity building and help researching and replicating model social service programs.

TITLE VI: SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

This section would increase Federal funding for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), which most charitable organizations agree is a critically important and effective program for meeting the needs of disadvantaged communities and families. SSBG provides flexible funds to states for such vital programs as Meals on Wheels, child and elderly protective services, and support services for the disabled. Over the last five years, however, the program has seen its funding reduced by more than \$1 billion.

The bill aims to restore funding for SSBG over the next two years to its authorized level as dictated in the 1996 welfare reform law. It would first increase the funding level to \$1.975 billion for fiscal year 2003; the program is currently funded at \$1.7 billion. It would then raise the funding level to its full authorized level—\$2.8 billion—for fiscal year 2004. This would represent an increase of \$275 million for the coming fiscal year, and more than \$800 million for the following year.

TITLE VII: MATERNITY GROUP HOMES

This section is designed to advance one of the key goals of welfare reform—helping teenage mothers achieve self-sufficiency—by strengthening federal support for locally-run maternity group home programs. The 1996 welfare reform law requires that minors live at home under adult supervision or in one of these maternity group homes in order to receive benefits. Teenagers who are provided the opportunity to live in these homes are more likely to continue their education or receive job training, less likely to have a second teenage pregnancy, and more likely to find gainful employment that allows them to leave welfare. To help give more teenage mothers this kind of opportunity, the bill creates a separate funding stream for maternity group home programs and authorizes \$33 million in additional funding.

By Mr. KERRY (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. GREGG):

S. 1925. A bill to establish the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in the States of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I rise to introduce legislation to establish the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The bill is cosponsored by Senator KENNEDY and Senator GREGG.

The bill proposes to establish a national heritage area including 36 communities in Massachusetts and six communities in New Hampshire. The area has important cultural and natural legacies that are important to New England and the entire Nation. I want to highlight just a few of the reasons I believe this designation makes sense.

The Freedom's Way is an ideal candidate because it is rich in historic sites, trails, landscapes and views. The land and the area's resources are pieces of American history and culture. The entire region, and especially places like Lexington and Concord, is important to our country's founding and our political and philosophical principles. Within the 42 communities are truly special places. These include the Minuteman National Historic Park, more than 40 National Register Districts and National Historic Landmarks, the Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, Walden Pond State Reservation, Gardener State Park, Harvard Shaker Village and the Shirley Shaker Village.

In addition, there is strong grassroots support for this designation. The people of these communities organized themselves in this effort and have now turned to us for assistance. I hope we can provide it. Supporters include elected officials, people dedicated to preserving a small piece of American and New England history, and local business leaders. It is an honor to help their cause.

Finally, I am very pleased that Senators from both Massachusetts and New Hampshire have embraced this proposal. I thank Senators KENNEDY and GREGG. •

STATEMENTS ON SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 206—DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MARCH 17 THROUGH MARCH 23, 2002 AS "NATIONAL INHALANTS AND POISON PREVENTION WEEK"

Mr. MURKOWSKI submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 206

Whereas according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, inhalant use ranks third in popularity behind use of alcohol and tobacco for all youths through the eighth grade;

Whereas the over 1,000 products that are being inhaled to get high are legal, inexpensive, and found in nearly every home and corner market;

Whereas using inhalants even once to get high can lead to kidney failure, brain damage, or even death;

Whereas inhalants are considered a gateway drug, 1 that leads to the use of harder, more deadly drugs; and

Whereas because inhalant use is difficult to detect, the products used are accessible and affordable, and abuse is so common, increased education of young people and their parents regarding the dangers of inhalants is an important step in our Nation's battle against drug abuse: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week of March 17 through March 23, 2002, as "National Inhalants and Poison Prevention Week";

(2) encourages parents to learn about the dangers of inhalant abuse and discuss those dangers with their children; and

(3) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the week with appropriate activities.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, today I rise to submit a resolution to designate March 17 to March 23, 2002 as "National Inhalants and Poison Prevention Week."

What exactly are inhalants? Inhalants are the intentional breathing of gas or vapors for the purpose of reaching a high. Over 1,400 common products can be abused—such as lighter fluid, pressurized whipped cream, hair spray, and gasoline, the abused product of choice in rural Alaska. These products are inexpensive, easily obtained and legal. An inhalant abuse counselor told me, "If it smells like a chemical, it can be abused." It's a "silent epidemic" because few adults really appreciate the severity of the problem. One in five students has tried inhalants by the time they reach the eighth grade. The use of inhalants by children has nearly doubled in the last 10 years. Further, inhalants are the third most abused substances among teenagers, behind alcohol and tobacco.

These are facts that should trouble every parent, and every American. Inhalants are deadly. Inhalant vapors react with fatty tissues in the brain, literally dissolving them. One time use of inhalants can cause instant and permanent brain, heart, kidney, liver or other organ damage. The user can also suffer from instant heart failure known as "Sudden Sniffing Death Syndrome", this means an abuser can die the first, tenth or hundredth time he or she uses an inhalant. In fact, according to a recent study by the Alaska Native Health Consortium, inhaling has a higher risk of "instant death" than any other abused substance.

That's what happened to Theresa, an 18-year-old who lived in rural Western Alaska. Theresa was inhaling gasoline, shortly thereafter her heart stopped. She was found alone and outside in near zero degree temperatures. Theresa, who was the youngest of five children and just a month shy of graduation, was flown to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival.

To help combat this, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation opened Alaska's first inhalant treatment center last year. It is my hope that someday our treatment facility will only have empty beds. But, if this dream is to be realized, we must stop the abuse before the kids have to go into treatment. My experience has been that prevention through education is the key. As such awareness must be promoted among young people, parents and educators. I hope that a national week of awareness will encourage programs throughout the country, alerting parents and children to the dangers of inhalants.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2836. Mr. CONRAD (for himself and Mr. CRAPO) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 2471 submitted by Mr. DASCHLE and