

Estuarine Research Reserve System, NERRS, to \$13 million in fiscal year 2004 with an additional \$1 million increase each year through fiscal year 2008. NERRS is a network of reserves across the country that are operated as a cooperative federal-state partnership.

Currently, there are 25 reserves in 22 States. They provide an important opportunity for long-term research and education in these ecosystems. Additional funds will help strengthen this nationwide program which has not received increased funding commensurate with the addition of new reserves.

I would like to address a very serious problem facing the Coastal Zone Management Program that we have tried to rectify in this bill. The Administrative Grant program, section 306, serves as the base funding mechanism for the States' coastal zone management programs. The amount of funding each State receives is determined by a formula that takes into account both the length of the coastline and the population of each State.

However, since 1992, the Appropriations Committee has imposed a two million dollar cap per State on Administrative Grants. This was an attempt to ensure equitable allocation to all the participating states. Over the past eight years appropriations for Administrative Grants have increased by \$19 million, yet the \$2 million cap has remained. The result has been an inequitable distribution of these new funds. By fiscal year 2000, 13 States had reached this arbitrary \$2 million cap. These 13 States account for 83 percent of our Nation's coastline and 76 percent of our coastal population.

It is not equitable to have the 13 States with the largest coastlines and populations stuck at a two million dollar cap, despite major overall funding increases. While smaller States have enjoyed additional programmatic success due to an influx of funding, some of the larger States have stagnated.

In an attempt to reassure members of the Appropriations Committee that a fair distribution of funds can occur without this hard cap in place, I have worked with Senator HOLLINGS to develop language that has been included in this bill that directs the Secretary of Commerce to ensure that equitable increases or decreases between funding years for each State. It further requires that States should not experience a decrease in base program funds in any year when the overall appropriations increase.

I would like to thank Senator HOLLINGS for his assistance in resolving this matter and his commitment over the years to ensuring that the States are treated fairly.

The Coastal Zone Management Program enjoys wide support among all of the coastal states due to its history of success. This support has been clearly demonstrated by the many members of the Commerce Committee who have worked with me to strengthen this program over the past several years.

I would like to thank Senator KERRY, the Ranking Democrat of the Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee for his hard work and support of this bill. I would also like to express my appreciation to Senator MCCAIN, the Chairman of the Commerce Committee, and Senator HOLLINGS, the Ranking Democrat of the Committee, for their support of this measure and for their willingness to discharge this bill out of the committee so that we may begin working with our colleagues in the House of Representatives to enact this critical piece of legislation.

This is a solid, reasonable, and a realistic bill that enjoys bipartisan support on the Commerce Committee. It is time that we now turn to legislation reauthorizing a program with a long track record of preserving our coastal environment while allowing sensible development.

I am pleased to support this legislation that will provide the States with the necessary funding and framework to meet the challenges facing our coastal communities in the 21st century. I urge my colleagues to support it.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 25—DESIGNATING JANUARY 2003 AS “NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH”

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. SPECTER, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. COCHRAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. DODD, and Ms. LANDRIEU) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 25

Whereas mentors serve as role models, advocates, friends, and advisors to youth in need;

Whereas numerous studies and research document that mentors help youth augment social skills and emotional well-being, improve cognitive skills, and plan for the future;

Whereas, for some youth, having a caring adult mentor to turn to for guidance and encouragement can make the crucial difference between success and failure in life;

Whereas 17,600,000 youth, nearly half the youth population, want or need mentors to help them reach their full potential.

Whereas there exists a large “mentoring gap” of unmet needs, as evidenced by the fact that just 2,500,000 youth are in formal mentoring relationships, leaving 15,000,000 youth still in need of mentors;

Whereas the celebration of National Mentoring Month will institutionalize the Nation's commitment to mentoring and raise awareness of mentoring in various forms;

Whereas a month-long focus on mentoring will tap into the vast pool of potential mentors and motivate adults to take action to help a youth;

Whereas National Mentoring Month will encourage organizations of all kinds—businesses, faith communities, government agencies, schools, and other organizations—to engage their constituents in mentoring; and

Whereas the celebration of that month would above all encourage more people to volunteer as mentors, to the benefit of the Nation's youth: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) designates the month of January 2003 as “National Mentoring Month”; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States and interested groups to observe the month with appropriate ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of and volunteer involvement with youth mentoring.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, it is a privilege today to join my colleagues in submitting a resolution recognizing January 2003 as National Mentoring Month. Business, community and media leaders have formed a coalition to raise public awareness about the importance of taking time to make a real difference in the life of a child.

Under the impressive leadership of the National Mentoring Partnership and the Harvard School of Public Health, the coalition is sponsoring an advertising campaign to explain the benefits of mentoring for children and mentors alike: Each of us has had adults who have made a positive difference for us, family, teachers, coaches, clergy, neighbors or caring friends who were there to listen and offer guidance. Each of us has the opportunity to offer that same gift to young persons today.

Each week with many of my colleagues in the Senate, I read with an elementary school student in the District of Columbia in the Everybody Wins program. During our lunchtime sessions, my first grade partner and I share good books and stories. Whether mentors choose reading programs or some other activity, these times are dedicated to listening and responding to the child's needs. Mentors have busy lives, and every child needs to know that we can make time for them.

In States across this country there are long lists of young persons waiting for mentors. This important project will connect new mentors to these waiting children, and enhance the quality of their lives. I urge the Senate to approve it.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 246. Mr. THOMAS proposed an amendment to amendment SA 61 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, and Mrs. MURRAY) to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 2, making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

SA 247. Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. REID) proposed an amendment to amendment SA 61 proposed by Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KOHL, and Mrs. MURRAY) to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 2, supra.

SA 248. Ms. STABENOW proposed an amendment to the joint resolution H.J. Res. 2, supra.