

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, seeing no one seeking recognition, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

INTEGRITY IN PROFESSIONAL SPORTS ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues Senator BUNNING, Senator MCCAIN, Senator STEVENS and Senator ROCKEFELLER, as a cosponsor of the Integrity in Professional Sports Act. While it is unfortunate that it has come to this, it is becoming abundantly clear that Major League Baseball and other professional leagues are still more concerned about protecting their own collective bargaining rights than cleaning up their sport.

I have said it before and I will say it again. The abuse of illegal steroids by professional athletes is inexcusable and has no place in competition at any level. Unfortunately, this has become a problem that we can no longer afford to ignore. The most recent studies indicate that possibly up to five to seven percent of students, even as young as middle school, have admitted to using steroids. This is an alarming statistic. If Major League Baseball won't step up to the plate on this issue, we will do it for them.

Every day, millions of young people in this country dream of one day playing ball in the big leagues. When superstar athletes, with their multi-million dollar contracts and lucrative endorsements are seen using steroids to improve their performance, it should come as no surprise that many young athletes would choose to use steroids to improve their own performance.

Professional athletes must be held to a higher standard when it comes to illegal substances such as steroids. Like it or not, young people look up to professional athletes as role models. The Integrity in Professional Sports Act will require all professional sports leagues to adopt a unified standard for testing as well as tougher penalties for any athlete found in violation of these standards. Unlike testing today, this act will require athletes to test during the off-season and frequently during their season of play. Athletes will face severe penalties for a positive test: a two-year ban for the first offense and a lifetime ban for the second.

I have little doubt that this act will aid in the effort to rid professional sports of these dangerous substances and bring integrity back to the game. We must send a strong message to professional athletes. If you choose to cheat and use illegal steroids, you risk ending your career. In turn, our young

people will hopefully get the message that using steroids to improve athletic performance is absolutely the wrong way to go.

While this bill specifically addresses professional athletics, the importance of stopping steroid abuse extends well beyond the track, baseball diamond, or football field. We must continue to focus on the health and future of our children. I encourage my colleagues to join in support of this legislation to set the standard for fair competition.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On July 1999, in Palm Springs, CA, Steven Cagle and a companion were attacked by Randy Reyes and Juan Rios in a Carrow's Restaurant. It is believed that the beating was motivated by the victims' sexual orientation. Cagle stated that it was inhumane and, "For no other reason than I am a gay man." Prosecutors are calling this a hate crime and are asking for the maximum sentence.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

MEDICARE BAD DEBT POLICY

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I rise today with my distinguished colleague from Idaho, Senator CRAPO, to discuss the change in Medicare bad debt policy as proposed in the budget reconciliation bill. I feel there is a need to differentiate between debt owed by individuals and debt owed by States. The sponsors of this policy argue that it will encourage skilled nursing facilities to be more efficient in the collection of bad debt. However, how can the facility be more efficient if the State simply refuses to pay the Medicare copayments through its Medicaid program? This body should examine the root of this problem before implementing the bad debt policy in this bill. It is my hope that the conference committee considers this when examining this policy.

Mr. CRAPO. Senator LINCOLN makes a good point. While I support the Finance Committee's goal of encouraging accountability and incentivizing the collection of Medicare bad debt by skilled nursing facilities, I do see the

need to differentiate between debt owed by individuals and debt owed by States. I believe this conference should consider this point as well.

LIVE 8 CHARITY CONCERT IN PHILADELPHIA

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work accomplished by Larry Magid and his staff at Electric Factory Concerts, who produced the original LIVE AID concert in Philadelphia's JFK Stadium in 1985, which raised awareness of poverty around the world.

On July 2, 2005, Larry Magid and his staff, including Adam Spivak, John Stevenson and Jim Sutcliffe, were instrumental in producing the U.S. portion of LIVE 8 which was held in Philadelphia on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

This concert, which was attended by over 1 million people, was part of eight other concerts on the same night in nine different countries including the U.K., Japan, Russia, South Africa, Canada, Germany, France, and Italy.

I again would like to commend Electric Factory Concerts for their success in helping to raise awareness of the global poverty epidemic, and they are to be commended for their efforts in this worthwhile undertaking.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING EBONY MAGAZINE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am very pleased to take a few moments to recognize Ebony magazine as this venerable publication celebrates its 60th anniversary.

In 1945, at a time when segregation was the law of the land, an outlet for the positive portrayal of Black life in American popular culture was long overdue. With the birth of Ebony, Publisher John H. Johnson forced the world to consider real African Americans, including their diverse success stories. These same stories, which filled each month's edition of Ebony, gave African Americans a deeper sense of pride in their heritage and their growing prosperity.

Ebony also provided millions with a rich, firsthand account of key moments in the struggle for civil rights. Whether it was a sit-in at a lunch counter in the South or the historic March on Washington, the intrepid journalists and photographers of Ebony were present to bear witness and to report the news through a prism different from the mainstream press. In fact, it was an Ebony photographer who captured the now iconic photo of a grieving Coretta Scott King, with one of her children, at the funeral of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Not only did this photograph capture the emotions of a nation, but it resulted in the first Pulitzer Prize awarded to an African-American man.

Since Ebony was founded 60 years ago, its circulation has grown from