

'\$1,000' and inserting '\$2,750''. Any reading of the language in context would indicate this clerical error, as the numerical references in the language are illogical otherwise. We will make the technical correction at the appropriate time.

#### REAUTHORIZATION OF THE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS PROTECTION

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I rise today to speak in support of the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

The scourge of trafficking in women and children was a priority for me as First Lady and continues to be a priority for me as a Senator. Since the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, I have been working to raise awareness of the heinous practice of buying and selling women and children like commodities. I have seen the devastation that it causes, and the lives it ruins. I have met with the families from Eastern and Central Europe, who, with tears in their eyes, pleaded with me to help them find lost ones who had been stolen from them, and I have met with the victims, including a 12-year-old girl in Thailand who was dying of AIDS after being sold twice by her family. This barbaric practice has caused far too many to exist in a perpetual state of fear and vulnerability, and we must do everything in our power to bring the scourge of trafficking out of the shadows and to the attention of the world.

I am proud to say that the United States has, for the past decade, been the leader in trying to persuade the rest of the world to eradicate this abhorrent practice. As the Clinton administration increased the antitrafficking activities of our Government through programs at the State Department and the Department of Justice, Congress was developing legislation to eradicate trafficking. We worked with the late Senator Wellstone, his Republican cosponsor, Senator BROWNBACK, and Congressman CHRIS SMITH and former Congressman Sam Gejdenson in the House, to introduce the first comprehensive antitrafficking bill in Congress. This culminated in the passage of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. I believed then, and I believe now, that this is one of the Clinton administration's greatest achievements and one of the most important parts of Senator Wellstone's legacy. That law has meant the difference between freedom and enslavement for unknown numbers of potential trafficking victims, and this reauthorization provides us with the opportunity to strengthen its ability to help those who have been trafficked, and I would like to thank Senator BROWNBACK and Representative SMITH, my colleagues on the Helsinki Commission, for their continued commitment to this act since its initial passage.

I am proud to see that this reauthorization enhances the 3 P's strategy—

prevention of trafficking, prosecution of those that engage in these acts, and protection of the vulnerable individuals who have been trafficked—that we developed in the Clinton administration. It gives the Justice Department the authority to pursue extraterritorial prosecutions of Federal employees or those accompanying them if they engage in trafficking activities. It encourages the prevention of trafficking by requiring organizations or contractors engaged in U.S.-supported peacekeeping efforts to have antitrafficking policies in place. And it will protect those who have been trafficked overseas by increasing funding for programs like residential treatment facilities.

But there is still so much work to be done. Although reliable statistics are difficult to find, we know that 800,000 individuals—the vast majority of whom are women and children—are trafficked from one country to another every year, with 15,000 being trafficked to the United States. The FBI estimates that trafficking generates \$9.5 billion annually for organized crime syndicates around the world.

I am deeply concerned about the growing domestic commercial sex trade, and I believe that we need to increase funding and target efforts to end all forms of exploitation. Any expansion of our focus must not dilute our commitment to eradicating human trafficking in all its forms in the United States, nor detract from the progress we have made in increasing prosecutions and working with law enforcement agencies. We must ensure that our government has all the resources it needs to make inroads against these awful acts on our own soil.

In the fight against trafficking in persons, patience simply is not an option. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to end this barbaric practice in both the United States and around the world, because this is not about politics, but about what we all share: universal freedom and universal human rights.

#### KATRINA RECOVERY EFFORTS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, this holiday season is a time for families to come together, reflect on the year's challenges and opportunities, and give thanks for all that has been accomplished. It is also a time to take action to help those less fortunate.

The year 2005 was a year of great challenges, and among the greatest were the hurricanes that ripped through the gulf coast.

The magnitude of Hurricane Katrina was unprecedented. Its aftermath brought us images that we thought we would never see in America—lives lost, communities destroyed, families uprooted.

The toll was particularly devastating for hundreds of thousands of young children and students torn from the

surroundings and institutions they depend on, and I'd like to spend a few moments discussing this aspect of the recovery effort.

We are all familiar with the devastation that past hurricanes have caused. Some have temporarily closed schools and colleges. In the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in 1992, the Army, Navy, and National Guard joined in helping to repair classrooms and reopen school doors in about 3 weeks. Last year, Florida schools damaged by Hurricane Charley reopened within a month, and students were quickly back on track in their classrooms.

But Hurricane Katrina caused vastly greater devastation, especially in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. More than 700 schools and 30 colleges and universities were damaged or destroyed. Almost all have been closed, at least temporarily, and many will not open until January at the earliest. Some are in danger of never reopening.

The number of students affected is staggering. More than 370,000 elementary, middle, and high school students were displaced. Over 100,000 college students were affected by the disaster. And 18,500 Head Start or Early Head Start children were uprooted from programs.

These are not just statistics. These are real people whose lives have been changed forever.

Hurricane Katrina reminded us that we are all part of a single American family. And we have a responsibility to help members of that family when they are in need.

For too many weeks, our friends in the gulf region have waited for Congress to provide help in rebuilding their lives and their communities. Today, I am pleased that we will take an important step in actually providing the assistance so obviously needed.

The Katrina and Rita relief provisions in the conference report passed by the Senate today include several proposals developed by Senator ENZI and myself to help the children and students affected by these hurricanes.

It includes assistance to ensure that the youngest children uprooted by these tragic storms receive the services, help, and support they need. The bill dedicates funding to provide access to Head Start preschool programs and child care.

It provides much-needed relief for the public and private schools across the country that generously opened their doors to schoolchildren whose lives were turned upside-down by these disasters. These schools provided classrooms, teachers, and services for all of these students, and did so without a penny from the Federal Government.

It also includes relief for colleges in the affected areas, and ensures that college students displaced by the hurricane will receive the financial aid they need to stay in school and continue working toward their degree. Several colleges in Louisiana are in danger of