

Third, it toughens criminal penalties for violent crimes against children under 12 years of age.

Just by creating a national registry we are going to make it easier for law enforcement to act on that tip and to identify and intercept sex offenders before they can commit those repeat crimes and victimize more children.

From the episode I saw two nights ago it was very apparent that one of the criminals—maybe it was more, but the second one I saw—was somebody who had been convicted before and was just about ready to go to jail but, once again, in that period before going to jail slipped out to commit another crime.

Currently, there are over 100,000 missing sex offenders who have failed to register under current State laws. This bill will enhance the penalty for failure to register from a Federal misdemeanor to a Federal felony. I am proud the Senate is acting to protect our Nation's most valuable resource—our children.

I close by thanking those people who are recognizable in the sense that they have been fighting for this legislation for such a long time; namely, our distinguished colleague from Utah, Senator ORRIN HATCH, whose bill this is, who has been on the issue, has helped educate all of us on both sides of the aisle, who has fought for this piece of legislation, who has encouraged me to keep fighting for this legislation in spite of others' attempts to attach unrelated amendments, and indeed because of his persistence, again, thousands of young kids will be safer in the future.

Also, there is someone I have gotten to know personally, but the American people know in large part because of his very effective voice on television, and that is John Walsh. John Walsh, who runs the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, is commenting constantly and staying on this issue, having suffered a real tragedy with his own child in the past.

On "Dateline NBC," the producer, who has done a tremendous job, Chris Hansen, has been the face and voice in heading this show, "To Catch a Predator."

The list could go on and on, but I know we have to keep moving on with tonight's business. This is such a huge success for the American people and for families. I appreciate my colleagues coming together to pass this bill.

NATIONAL CHILDHOOD STROKE AWARENESS DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 465, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 465) expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to childhood

stroke and designating May 6, 2006, as "National Childhood Stroke Awareness Day."

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise today to raise awareness about childhood stroke. Very little is known about the cause, treatment, and prevention of childhood stroke. Only through medical research can effective treatment and prevention strategies for childhood stroke be identified and developed. The earlier that we are able to diagnose and begin treatment for victims of childhood stroke, the better the chances are for recovery and a recurrence is less likely to happen.

The need for awareness on this issue was brought to my attention by a young man from Norcross, GA, Alan Blinder. In January of 2006, Alan was having a normal day at school, as any sophomore in high school would. As he was sitting in his fourth period Algebra class, the entire left side of his body went numb and he was unable to speak. Alan was escorted to the school nurse and she sent him home. That evening Alan's mother explained her son's situation to a friend who suggested the incident could have been a pediatric stroke. After seeing a physician, Alan learned that he had suffered a transient ischemic attack, or a mini stroke. These attacks can be ominous warning signs for potential future strokes. While Alan was able to receive a diagnosis from a specialist, there are thousands of children, adolescents, and parents who do not know the signs of this life threatening episode that leaves many individuals impaired. Alan was very lucky and I am happy to report that he is doing well. Alan is a smart young man who has a very bright future ahead of him.

Each year a stroke occurs in 20 out of every 100,000 newborns. Almost 3 out of every 106,000 children experience a stroke before the day they are born. Of these children who experience a stroke, 12 percent will lose their lives as a result. Over half of the children who have a pediatric stroke will have serious, long-term neurological disabilities, including seizures, speech and vision problems, and learning disabilities. The result of a pediatric stroke may require ongoing physical therapy and surgeries for years and into their young adulthood. The permanent health concerns and treatments resulting from childhood stroke can result in a heavy financial and emotional burden on both the child and the family.

It is my hope that greater awareness of the symptoms of childhood stroke, I introduce legislation to designate May 6, 2006, as Childhood Stroke Awareness Day. I urge the people of the United States to support efforts, programs, services, and advocacy of the American Heart Association to enhance public awareness of childhood stroke.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 465) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 465

Whereas a stroke, also known as a "cerebrovascular accident", is an acute neurologic injury that occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is interrupted by—

- (1) a clot in the artery; or
- (2) a burst of the artery;

Whereas a stroke is a medical emergency that can cause permanent neurologic damage or even death if not promptly diagnosed and treated;

Whereas 26 out of every 100,000 newborns and almost 3 out of every 100,000 children have a stroke each year;

Whereas an individual can have a stroke before birth;

Whereas stroke is among the top 10 causes of death for children in the United States;

Whereas 12 percent of all children who experience a stroke die as a result;

Whereas the death rate for children who experience a stroke before the age of 1 year is the highest out of all age groups;

Whereas many children who experience a stroke will suffer serious, long-term neurological disabilities, including—

- (1) hemiplegia, which is paralysis of 1 side of the body;
- (2) seizures;
- (3) speech and vision problems; and
- (4) learning difficulties;

Whereas those disabilities may require ongoing physical therapy and surgeries;

Whereas the permanent health concerns and treatments resulting from strokes that occur during childhood and young adulthood have a considerable impact on children, families, and society;

Whereas very little is known about the cause, treatment, and prevention of childhood stroke;

Whereas medical research is the only means by which the citizens of the United States can identify and develop effective treatment and prevention strategies for childhood stroke; and

Whereas early diagnosis and treatment of childhood stroke greatly improves the chances that the affected child will recover and not experience a recurrence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 6, 2006, as "National Childhood Stroke Awareness Day"; and

(2) urges the people of the United States to support the efforts, programs, services, and advocacy of organizations that work to enhance public awareness of childhood stroke, including—

(A) the Children's Hemiplegia and Stroke Association;

(B) the American Stroke Association, a division of the American Heart Association; and

(C) the National Stroke Association.

NEGRO LEAGUERS RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 466, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows: