

IMPROVING OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY "METH" ACT OF 2006

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, the Senate has passed an important bill, Chairman GRASSLEY's Improving Outcomes for Children Affected by "Meth" Act of 2006. This legislation will reauthorize the Safe and Stable Families Program and target \$40 million in new funding to programs to help children affected by methamphetamine abuse and addiction.

West Virginia, like all too many States, is facing severe problems with a methamphetamine epidemic. There is by all reports a rapid spread and growth of this pernicious addiction. SAMSHA reports that methamphetamine abuse has increased more than 420 percent for persons 12 years and older during the past decade. And according to a well-cited National Association of Counties survey, the epidemic is no longer targeting rural States like my own. Much to my dismay we are finding addicts in suburban high schools as well as urban areas. Addicts are white and blue collar workers and the unemployed who are in their twenties or thirties. Use is equally divided among males and females.

The legislation offered today is part of the reauthorization for the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. Our child welfare system relies on the principles and services mandated by Safe and Stable Families Programs. I have wholeheartedly worked on this program since its inception in 1993. I have continued over the years to support modifications that fit the changing needs of the children.

It is essential that our most vulnerable children remain safe and that they find emergency placements and permanent homes. Programs such as Foster Care remain a foundational safeguard for children. Children find refuge in foster homes when they are placed in harm's way due to neglect or abuse. Permanence of placement represents an enduring goal of Safe and Stable. This objective provides a child the hope of living conditions that support physical and psychological health. The Safe and Stable Programs ultimately assist with decisions about family reunification and adoption.

Of course, there remains a lot more work to be done. Our foster care system is overburdened. There is all too often a lack of coordination among agencies and services that serve children and their families. And currently many programs are especially stressed by the expanding and invasive problems brought on by the next generation of illicit drugs. Right now our children need more help.

The goals of Improving Outcomes for Children Affected by "Meth" Act are consistent with the spirit and design of the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Programs. This act targets the growing problems caused by a cheaply made, easily available, lethal drug.

The facts are, to say the least, extremely disturbing. The National Asso-

ciation of Counties survey points to the rise of out-of-home placements due to methamphetamine addiction by as much as 71 percent in California counties and 70 percent in responding Colorado counties. This year in Montana, State officials reported at least 50 percent of child abuse and neglect cases involved methamphetamine abuse. I know that in southern West Virginia alone there have been over 100 laboratory busts since October, 2005. And according to a survey by the Rebecca Project, over 10,000 children in the U.S. were either present at a lab seizure or lived where the lab was seized between 2000 and 2003. These labs produce 5 pounds of toxic waste as a result of producing 1 pound of methamphetamine. There are too many children in harm's way.

This bill creates new competitive grants to support regional partnerships that provide services to children who are affected by their caretakers' methamphetamine abuses. The bill reserves \$40 million to fund these grants.

I know that these grants are not a cure-all, but this legislation is a firm step in the right direction in several ways. First, regional demonstration projects can further identify intervention models that are showing some good results. We also are on the mark when we encourage community health care providers, law enforcement agencies, judges, and statewide child welfare agencies to form more coherent and efficient partnerships. These grants can target innovative prevention programs that reach at-risk children before out-of-home placements are necessary. Finally the grants are available for innovative family-based programs, comprehensive long-term treatment services, and counseling for the children. It is good that the Senate has passed this legislation, and we need to work with the House to secure passage of a final bill that can be signed into law by the President this year.

PEER TO PEER: TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, a serious and, at times, deadly form of physical and emotional interpersonal violence is alarmingly pervasive in our Nation today. It transcends race, socio-economic condition, and community size. It is dating violence and it happens every day in teen dating relationships. Like domestic violence to which it is a precursor, teen dating violence is something our society is finally talking about openly. A major driver of this public conversation is visual media, specifically, television.

I am proud to say that a high school in Eagle, ID on the leading edge of this awareness effort. Organizers of a teen dating violence awareness and prevention summit in Boise reached out to the Eagle High School media department asking for its participation in the summit. Taking up the challenge, media instructor Jim Seaney and his

students produced a series of public service announcements, PSA, dealing with the crime of teen dating violence from the perspective of teens.

I featured one of the five segments on my monthly live townhall meeting, Capitol Watch, and at a national press conference in February kicking off National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. Well-scripted, professionally produced, and riveting in their directness and simplicity, each PSA confronts the viewer with the tragedy of teen dating violence. The message is clear: teen dating violence exists—and in relationships and places you would never suspect.

Without any further acclaim, these productions stand as a tremendous accomplishment. But, I am pleased to say that they were recently selected as the winning entry to the 2005–2006 National Student Television Award for Excellence, Hubbard Family Public Affairs/Community Service/Public Service Category. I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Jim Seaney and his students, Bethany Ross, Cody Bolken, Robert O'Neal, Tommy Sauriol, Sabra Wiitanen, John Adkins, Natalie Volarich, Chase Gronowski, Vianey Conchas, Abby Sauriol, Jeremiah Mitchell, and Jim's daughter Aubree who also acts in one of the segments. I thank them for the time and effort they took to make the crime of teen dating violence something that families, schools, communities and a nation, talk about. These conversations open the door to truth and healing now and healthy, respectful relationships for life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

THE LIFE OF FRANK ZEIDLER

• Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I join the city of Milwaukee and the entire State of Wisconsin in mourning the loss of Mayor Frank Zeidler. When he passed away on July 7, Wisconsin lost one of its most principled and progressive leaders.

Mayor Zeidler was born in 1912 in Milwaukee, WI, and lived there throughout his life. He grew up in the Merrill Park neighborhood on the city's west side and attended Marquette University and the University of Chicago. In addition to his long career in public service to the city of Milwaukee, Zeidler read relentlessly, loved statistics, collected fossils, and rewrote Shakespeare.

Mayor Zeidler served in public office for more than 20 years and is widely known as Milwaukee's last socialist mayor. His career in public service began in 1938 when he was first elected to public office as county surveyor, and he then went on to serve for 7 years on the Milwaukee School Board.

Then, in 1948, he was elected to serve as mayor of the city of Milwaukee, a position he would hold for over a decade. When he took office, his goal was