devastates, even destroys, the ability of high-prevalence communities to address needs is unacceptable.

I stand ready to work with my colleagues on a fair, openminded, nonpartisan, practical solution—in the spirit of the original bill that brought people together to develop a strategy to combat this horrible epidemic that has caused so much death and destruction, destroyed so many lives, created such a challenge to our health care system and our basic values.

Mr. President, we can do this if we really want to. All it takes is narrowing the gap between these two lines on the chart—HIV/AIDS cases and the amount of funding available. Some of the priorities on which we are asked to vote in this Chamber certainly don't reflect the pressing needs I have heard described in this Chamber. I hope we can come up with a real solution for the Ryan White CARE Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island is recognized.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a disease that has touched many American families. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among American women. More women are living with breast cancer than any other cancer.

Three million women are living with breast cancer in the United States, 2 million of which have been diagnosed and 1 million who don't know they have the disease. Over 40,000 women will have died from breast cancer this year alone. It is the leading cause of cancer deaths among women between the ages of 20 and 59.

What is the Senate doing about breast cancer? Some of you may know that I have a bill, S. 757, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act. This bill was first introduced on March 23, 2000, in the 106th Congress. Since that time, the bill has been introduced in the 107th Congress, where it had 44 bipartisan cosponsors and was on the verge of being included in the Women's Health Act of 2002 when negotiations broke down. In the 108th Congress, the bill again had tremendous bipartisan support, with 60 cosponsors. But again we did not act on the bill, which brings me to the current situation in the 109th Congress.

The bill now has 66 bipartisan cosponsors in the Senate and 255 cosponsors in the House. Thanks to the support and leadership of Chairman MICHAEL ENZI of the HELP Committee, this bill was reported unanimously by the committee on July 24, 2006. The bill was hotlined for floor consideration before the August recess, but it has not received Senate passage.

We as a Senate are denying millions of American women diagnosed with breast cancer the answers that might lead to a better understanding and perhaps a cure to this disease.

How can a bill with 66 cosponsors that was reported unanimously by the HELP Committee not be taken up and approved by the Senate?

This bill provides a targeted strategy and a long-term research investment needed to explore the links between the environment and breast cancer. Millions of women who are afflicted with breast cancer deserve the answers this legislation could yield.

I urge my colleagues to work with me to remove any obstacles and secure passage of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 757

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, will the Senator from Rhode Island, with whom I agree 100 percent, join me in a unanimous-consent request to pass this bill right now?

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we pass S. 757, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act of 2006.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On behalf of another Senator, in my personal capacity as a Senator from the State of Louisiana, I object.

There is objection heard.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I join my colleague in expressing great regret that once again the women of America have been blocked from having the additional help that this bill would provide. I applaud those of us who have tried on a bipartisan basis to pass this very important bill to increase research between the possible links of breast cancer and the environment and to include peer review grant programs within the National Institutes of Health and make sure that consumers and researchers and victims of breast cancer are part of determining how we spend money in order to try to prevent, treat, cure, and ultimately abolish the horrible disease of breast cancer.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time? The Senator from Arizona is recognized. Under the previous agreement, the Senator is recognized for 15 minutes.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I shall not take that much time, but I do think it is important to speak to the issue before us, which is adoption of the House bill which takes another step toward securing our border. This is something the American people have been wanting us to do for a long time.

What we will also be doing today, in fact, some of our actions in the past weeks have also supplemented, is to pass the money, the appropriations bills that we need to fund all of the things that we need to be doing to secure the borders. I will speak to both of those items.

The key to the House bill is to state a commitment that we are going to put the kind of infrastructure on the border that we need to secure the border. It starts with fencing, but it doesn't end with fencing. It includes vehicle barriers because much of the illegal entry into the United States now is accomplished by vehicles. It includes technology, such as cameras and sensors and other means of identifying people who are crossing our border illegally.

Some people say that we don't need a fence or these infrastructure barriers because someday we are going to adopt comprehensive immigration reform, and when we take away the magnet of illegal employment, then we are not going to have the problem anymore. That is my fervent hope with respect to the people who cross the border to gain employment here. But the sad reality is that even if we solve that problem—and we haven't gotten very far down the road because we haven't adopted comprehensive immigration reform yet—even if we were to accomplish that in the future, we still have a very high percentage of people coming across the border whom we don't want here no matter what.

What am I speaking of? I am speaking of drug dealers, drug cartel members, gang members, and criminals, people wanted for crime, people who have committed crime, much of it very serious crime. As a matter of fact, before the subcommittee I chair on terrorism and homeland security, the head of the Border Patrol testified a few months ago that over 10 percent of the people apprehended for crossing our border illegally have criminal records, and many of these are serious criminal records.

In fact, the statistics for this fiscal year, which is almost over, show that the percentage is closer to about 13 to 14 percent, and of those a significant number have committed serious crimes.

Here are the statistics year to date: Over 1 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended on the southwest border. Of that number, almost half have come through Arizona, the Yuma and Tucson sectors, so far about 475,000. And of the illegal immigrants apprehended crossing our border to date in this fiscal year, 141,000-plus have criminal histories. Of that number, well over 20,000 are considered to have committed major crimes such as homicide, kidnapping, sexual assault, robbery, assault, dealing in dangerous drugs, and the like.

A fence, barriers to illegal entry into this country are important not just to ensure that we enforce our laws with respect to employment but to keep out people who would do our citizens harm. The papers in my State are full of stories every week of people who came to this country illegally and then committed crimes on citizens of the United States and on other illegal immigrants. It is not at all uncommon to see stories

of crimes committed against people who just came here for a better way of life but who were assaulted, who were robbed, who were kidnapped for more ransom so their families back home would have to pay money to these coyotes, or kidnappers, and all manner of heinous crime that we have to stop, we have to prevent. And the best way to do that is to have barriers to illegal entry into this country.

I mentioned vehicle barriers. Fencing is important and this legislation from the House requires the Department of Homeland Security to begin building fences. I talked with the Secretary this morning. That project has already started. They are well on their way in constructing fencing, and we will be appropriating the money for even more of that construction in the future.

But we also have to put up vehicle barriers because more and more now with the territory contested, the illegal entry into this country either to bring drugs in or the human smugglers to bring their cargo, as they call it, requires the use of vehicles.

Here is the problem from the Border Patrol perspective. When they see a vehicle, they know they have trouble because it is a more valuable cargo. One can carry more in a vehicle than in a backpack and, therefore, it is more valuable and they are probably going to protect it. If they are going to protect it, it is probably going to be with weapons.

The number of assaults on the border are up dramatically—108 percent last year according to the U.S. attorney for the District of Arizona. The reason for that is that the Border Patrol is finally beginning to gain control of parts of the border. They are contesting the territory of the drug cartels and the coyotes and dangerous gangs from places such as El Salvador. As a result, there is much more violence, and it is causing real problems for the Border Patrol.

That is the bad news with the good news. We are gaining more territory, more control, but with that comes more violence. Eventually, of course, the control will be consolidated and the violence will go down. But the point is that it is important we demonstrate to the American people that we are serious about gaining control of our border, and it can't be done without more fencing.

Let me describe just a little bit what we mean by this fencing because there is some misinformation about it. In Arizona right now in the urban areas south of Yuma, around San Louis, in Nogales, Douglas, and some of the smaller communities, there is some fencing. Much of it is a very old and ugly barrier. It is steel plates that were used in World War II and, I suppose, Vietnam for landing mats in the jungle to make temporary landing strips for aircraft.

They stand those steel plates on end and imbed them in concrete. It is a very ugly wall. You can't see through it, obviously, and that is a problem for the Border Patrol. They would like to see who is massing on the other side and what is going on so they can prevent it.

Part of the money we will be appropriating will be to replace that wall. It is hard to maintain it, and it is better to build with more modern technologies, sensors embedded in them, and the like. Part of this will be to replace this deteriorating and ugly fencing. Another will be to imbed sensors in the fence so when we have fencing 20, 30 miles outside a community—most of the fencing is in the urban areas where most of the people are. But if we extend it to some of the smuggling corridors, let's say 20 miles outside of town, we are also going to want to get the Border Patrol to a site of a breakthrough or an attempted crossover of the fence.

No fence is impervious to people getting through if they have enough time and equipment. That is the key. It slows them down. What we have to have is Border Patrol units that can get to anyplace along the fence in a reasonable period of time, perhaps 10, 15 minutes, or else it will not do any good. If the fence is being tampered with or someone is trying to go over or under it and the Border Patrol is no more than, say, 10 minutes away, that fence stops people long enough for the Border Patrol to get to the site and either prevent the illegal entry or apprehend the people coming in.

So we have to have Border Patrol along with fencing, and that means we also have to increase Border Patrol. What are we doing in that regard? We are appropriating enough money for another 1,500 Border Patrol this year, which will take us up to well over 14,000, approaching 15,000, and that is another critical component of this legislation.

Vehicle barriers, fencing, sensors, Border Patrol units, and in those places where it doesn't make sense to have a physical fence, we can have cameras—one person stationed in a control room which can monitor maybe 20 different cameras, and any time they see people massing on the other side of the border, they can simply call up the Border Patrol in the area closest, making sure they get to that site in time to apprehend the individuals crossing illegally or to prevent the crossing.

All of this can be done. We simply need to appropriate the money and to grant the authority and the direction to the Department of Homeland Security to get the job done.

I am advised by the Secretary that this fencing is already under construction and that he can move to a much more aggressive schedule. Obviously, we need to do it in a cost-effective way, and he needs to have the discretion of sequencing what fencing goes where when, when vehicle barriers are better than fencing, or cameras would do the job, and so forth.

With the direction of Congress to get this done, and his commitment to get it done, I am persuaded we can make a big dent in getting control of our borders. That is what we committed to the American people we are going to do.

The key point I want to say today is that I am going to be very pleased when we are able to adopt this legislation. No one should think that it is the end; rather, it is the end of the beginning. The beginning step is to secure the border, and with this direction, with this bill, we will have nailed in place the direction to the Department of Homeland Security. If we continue to adopt the appropriations that we have begun to adopt to spend the money on all the different items I talked about, if we put our money where our mouth is—and we are doing that—then we will be able to demonstrate to the American people that we care, that we have answered the basic question that they always ask me, which is: Why should we adopt some new legislation when the Federal Government isn't enforcing the laws we have? This demonstrates to them that we are enforcing the laws we have, that we are committed to that enforcement. Then we can go to the American people and ask for their support and their consensus on the next step, which will be comprehensive immigration reform to deal with the problem of illegal hiring, to have electronic verification of employment, to have a temporary worker program that really works because it is for temporary employment only, not permanent employment, and finally, to deal with the illegal immigrants who are here already.

All of those items need to be done, and the sooner we get about it the better. But the place to start is by securing the border, and the place to start with that is the construction of fencing and other barriers to prevent illegal entry.

I am pleased the House has passed the bill. I am pleased that we are going to be passing the bill tonight. I urge my colleagues to support this measure whenever the hour comes that we actually get to vote on it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

RYAN WHITE CARE ACT

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, it is my understanding this is the minority's time. Senator BYRD is coming to the floor, and they graciously granted me time to talk.

I wish to address a couple of issues that were raised by the Senator from New York as to the accuracies of the claims that have been made. I think it is real important.

I don't doubt for a minute that she genuinely cares for everybody who has HIV in this country. I think she does. I think her perspective on the challenges that face us as a nation in terms of finances is different from mine, and I will grant her that as well. But some of the claims made are not really accurate.

I ask unanimous consent to print in the RECORD an article from the New