

the litigation itself that endangers the program, not just the amount of money that might be awarded. Having the taxpayers in effect pay the plaintiffs' lawyers is not the kind of solution that is going to continue the program.

This is an area that cries out for bipartisanship, and that is exactly what happened in the Senate. By an overwhelming vote of 68 to 29, a substantial—I guess every single one of the 29 were Democrats—a significant number of Democrats, more than half, voted for this bipartisan bill. We know for a fact there are 21 Democrats in the House who support what the Senate did. If you add those 21 Democrats to the Republicans in the House, we know there is a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives to pass the very same bill we passed in the Senate.

I keep hoping we will somehow, through this process, evolve the same kind of spirit that we were able to exhibit on a bipartisan basis in passing the economic stimulus package earlier in the year and that we exhibited last week on the housing bill, which presumably will pass tomorrow or Wednesday. So I have not given up hope. But this is no small matter. This is about protecting the American people from attacks on our homeland.

We know we have successfully protected them for almost 6 years now, since 9/11. I don't think we ought to let our guard down and assume that our enemies have gone to sleep. This is an extremely important issue. I hope at some point we will figure some way forward that gets the job done, but I do not see it at the moment, and I do not think a short-term extension will help us get there.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one brief comment. As the Presiding Officer knows, under FISA as passed in 1978, that is in effect no matter what we do here.

Under the 1978 act, someone can go to a judge and ask that there be this information obtained. We would like it to be streamlined. We think the 1978 act should be modernized. We have been happy to work with the White House and Republicans in the Senate and House to do that. I say that in recent days we have seen signs that there is a thaw in the Republican position.

Does that mean we can get things done? I don't know. But at least people are beginning to talk a little bit and that is good. There have been some staff level discussions that have been very good too. I hope we can work together to bridge the differences between the House and Senate and do everything we can to get that done, but also understanding the 1978 FISA Act gives the President a lot of leeway to get this done anyway.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, to prolong it one more moment here, if that were adequate, we would not have passed the PROTECT America bill in the first place. Clearly, the 1978 law is not adequate to meet current chal-

lenges. There are many problems with the bill the House took up and passed and sent back over here. One is that it would require prior court approval before our intelligence professionals could monitor foreign terrorists overseas. So the House bill doesn't do anything about the problem. The Senate passed a good bill. I hope at some point the House will wake up here and do what is necessary to protect America.

In any event, the issue is not going away. The program may go away if we can't figure a way to get the job done. This is a very, very serious problem and I appreciate the good faith and attitude of the majority leader. The Senate is really not the problem here. Hopefully at some point the House will realize the best path forward.

Mr. REID. Never let it be said that I tried to get in the last word.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. REED. Mr. President, on March 25, 2008, we marked the 187th anniversary of Greek independence. Throughout 400 years of oppressive rule by the Ottoman Empire, the Greeks were able to maintain their language, religion, and their sense of identity. In 1821, the Greeks began an 8-year war of independence and in 1829 became the first country within the powerful Ottoman Empire to achieve its freedom. Today, Greece remains one of the oldest democracies in the world, a tribute to those brave Greek citizens who risked everything in the quest for liberty and freedom.

Our own Founding Fathers were deeply influenced by the philosophers and statesmen of ancient Greece who first imagined the idea of a republic. The United States enjoys a long history of cooperation with our Greek friends, and we owe much of our civic foundations to the Greek concept that the power to govern is vested in the people.

Throughout the 20th century, Greece has been a stalwart ally, and is one of only three countries in the world outside the British Commonwealth that has allied with the United States in every major international conflict. American and Greek soldiers have fought alongside each other in efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, and stability. In this century the Greece-U.S. relationship has deepened as the two countries have partnered to spread greater security, stability, and prosperity throughout the Mediterranean, Southeastern Europe, and the Caucasus. Today, Greek defense forces are deployed as part of the Inter-

national Security Assistance Forces in Afghanistan, maintain two battalions of troops in Kosovo as part of the NATO peacekeeping force, train Iraqi military officers at the Multi-National Peace Support Center, and provide logistical support to U.S. military forces throughout the Mediterranean region.

The historic friendship between Greece and the United States has been one of mutual respect and support. In history they have inspired, and in the present they enliven our great Nation. It gives me great pleasure to join my colleagues as a cosponsor of S. Res. 476 designating March 25, 2008, as "Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy." I send all Greek Americans my best wishes as we celebrate Greece's independence and contributions to our national heritage.

#### NATIONAL MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I urge support for S. Res. 500, which honors military children. The children of our servicemen and women in the Armed Forces have been deeply affected by the invasion in Iraq and Afghanistan. Thousands of children have lost a parent serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, and tens of thousands more must deal with the daily pressure of their parents' deployment. Military children clearly deserve our support.

Even in times of peace, these children pay a high price as they are typically required to move to many new locations several times during their formative years. The Department of Defense agrees that these multiple moves can make it more difficult for military children to do well in school, form lasting relationships with peers and adults, or cope with emotional issues ranging from loneliness to anger to depression.

In spite of all the challenges facing military children, they persevere. Children attending Department of Defense schools continue to have some of the highest test scores in the country. They rank 8th or better in all categories in comparison to the states in every national test, and they rank first or second in all categories for African-American and Hispanic students. Military children also have high school graduation and college enrollment rates significantly higher than the rest of the Nation's children. One study estimates that about 75 percent of children who graduate from high school with one or both of their parents in the military go on to college. That's significantly higher than the national average of 67 percent.

These are all accomplishments to be proud of. Military children unquestionably deserve our support, and the resolution offered by Senator BAYH recognizes them and pays tribute to their commitment, sacrifice and unconditional support for their parents and