

(E) such other issues as the panel deems important or relevant to the purpose of the study. The National Academy of Sciences shall utilize professionals with expertise in such issues, including psychiatrists, social workers, behavioral and social scientists, practitioners, epidemiologists, statisticians, and methodologists.

(b) REPORT.—The National Academy of Sciences shall submit a report containing the results of the study required by subsection (a), to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President pro tempore of the Senate, the Chair and ranking minority Member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and the Chair and ranking minority Member of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, not later than January 1, 2001, or 18 months after entering into the contract required by such subsection, whichever is earlier.

(c) APPROPRIATION.—Of the funds made available under Public Law 105-277 for the Department of Education, \$2.1 million shall be made available to carry out this section.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, at-long last the Congress is approving and passing S. 249, the Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children Protection Act, which will reauthorize programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and will authorize funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. I have been working since 1996 to get this legislation reauthorized. For each of the past several months I have come to the floor to express my disappointment over how long it has taken to pass this noncontroversial legislation.

I had some minor concerns with the House amended version of S. 249, but as I said in my statement June 30 of this year, after receiving some clarification and assurances from Secretary Shalala on these concerns, I decided that the House amendments should not keep this important piece of legislation from passing. I am pleased that we could finally clear this bill on the other side of the aisle.

The Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children Protection Act of 1999 reauthorizes programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and authorizes funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Both programs are critical to our nation's youth and to our nation's well-being.

In addition to providing shelter for children in need, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act ensures that these children and their families have access to important services, such as individual, family or group counseling, alcohol and drug counseling and a myriad of other resources available to help these young people and their families get back on track. As the National Network for Youth has stressed, the Act's programs "provide critical assistance to youth in high-risk situations all over the country."

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children provides extremely worthwhile and effective assistance to children and families facing crises across the U.S. and around the world. In 1998, the National Center helped law

enforcement officers locate over 5,000 missing children. The National Center serves a critical role as a clearinghouse of resources and information for both family members and law enforcement officers. They have developed a network of hotels and restaurants which provide free services to parents in search of their children and have also developed extensive training programs.

I do want to thank the many advocates, who have worked with me over the years, for their tireless efforts to improve the bill. In particular, I must mention the members of the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs and the National Network for Youth for their dedication throughout this process.

This bill, S. 249, should have been enacted last year. It should have been enacted when the Houses finally sent it back to us in May of this year. There was absolutely no reason to stall on this noncontroversial legislation. I am pleased that we were finally able to pass it so these important programs can continue to succeed.

I reincorporate my remarks from June 30, July 15 and August 5 and I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my letter to Secretary Shalala and the response that I received be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE,  
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,  
Washington, DC, May 26, 1999.

Hon. DONNA SHALALA,  
Secretary of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY SHALALA: I am pleased that we are close to enactment of S. 249, the Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Protection Act of 1999, which will reauthorize programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) and authorize funding for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The Senate passed the Leahy-Hatch substitute to S. 249 on April 19, by unanimous consent. Yesterday, the House passed its version of this legislation.

I am concerned about language inserted into the bill during House consideration upon which the Senate was not consulted. That language provides for a "consolidated review of applications" of RHYA grants. Before agreeing to the new language, I need to be assured that this could in no way be construed as consolidating any of the RHYA programs under a single formula allocation.

As you know now, under the RHYA, each year each State is awarded at a minimum \$100,000 for housing and crisis services under the Basic Center grant program. Effective community-based programs around the country can also apply directly for the funding available for the Transitional Living Program and the Sexual Abuse Prevention/Street Outreach grants.

I hope that you can clarify that the new language inserted by House will do nothing to collapse the distinct programs authorized under the RHYA. These programs are very important and I would like to see the legislation passed without further delay.

I have been working since 1996 to enact this reauthorizing legislation. I worked to

have the Senate pass this legislation during the last Congress and again earlier this year. With your assurance that Vermont and other small states will not be disadvantaged by the language inserted by the House in competing for national grant funding, I will seek to expedite enactment.

Sincerely,

PATRICK LEAHY,  
Ranking Member.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, June 7, 1999.

Hon. PATRICK LEAHY,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LEAHY: You have asked us to consider the impact of certain language recently inserted into the House version of S. 249, the "Missing, Exploited, and Runaway Children Act of 1999". Specifically, you have asked us to consider whether proposed section 385, Consolidated Review of Applications, will adversely affect the eligibility of small States to receive Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) funding above the minimum grant allotment of the RHYA Basic Center Grant program.

I am advised by General Counsel that currently the Secretary has wide statutory discretion to prescribe the procedures which will be used in awarding various grants under the RHYA. The Secretary presently exercises this discretion by choosing to include in a consolidated grant announcement several discrete funding opportunities with distinct application requirements. After studying the pertinent language in S. 249, General Counsel has concluded that the proposed legislation provides for a similar level of discretion with respect to procedures to be used for various grant awards under the RHYA. Therefore, since the proposed legislation does not require the Secretary to change in any way her current procedures for awarding RHYA grants, it will not require the Secretary to commingle the current separate and discrete RHYA funding opportunities so as to adversely affect the eligibility of small States to receive RHYA funding above the minimum grant allotment of the RHYA Basic Center grant program.

I hope this information is helpful to you as you proceed with final consideration of S. 249. The Department deeply appreciates all your efforts to reauthorize the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act.

Sincerely,

RICHARD J. TARPLIN,  
Assistant Secretary for Legislation.

Mr. HAGEL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate agree to the amendment of the House.

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

#### VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 190, H.J. Res. 34.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 34) congratulating and commending the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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

Mr. HAGEL. I ask unanimous consent that the joint resolution be read a third time and passed, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 34) was read the third time and passed.

The preamble was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 29, 1999

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until the hour of 10 a.m. on Wednesday, September 29. I further ask consent that on Wednesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then proceed to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. And I ask consent that the motion to proceed to that bill be considered agreed to.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. HAGEL. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will convene on Wednesday at 10 a.m. and will begin consideration of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. Amendments will be offered; therefore, votes will occur throughout the day and into the evening in an effort to make progress on the last remaining appropriations bill. Also, the Senate may be asked to consider any appropriations conference reports as they become available for action.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. HAGEL. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:21 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 29, 1999, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate September 28, 1999:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CHARLES TAYLOR MANATT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

GARY L. ACKERMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

PETER T. KING, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE JUDICIARY

RICHARD LINN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT, VICE GILES S. RICH, DECEASED.

THOMAS L. AMBRO, OF DELAWARE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT, VICE WALTER K. STAPLETON, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

QUENTON I. WHITE, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOHN MARSHALL ROBERTS, RESIGNED.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

FRANK HENRY CRUZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2006. (REAPPOINTMENT)