

astounding 150 to 1, with future uses for the technology appearing almost limitless.

Working with the development districts, the South Dakota Department of Transportation's goal was to map every mile of every road in the state of South Dakota to give the state and local governments the ability to develop their communities and allocate important highway funds.

I was pleased to introduce legislation in 1997 to expand the Coast Guard DGPS into a nationwide system. With the help of Senator DASCHLE, the legislation was added to the Department of Transportation's annual appropriations bill.

Throughout the process of securing funding for NDGPS, I have become aware of the numerous benefits NDGPS has for rural states like South Dakota. Four nonprofit planning districts in South Dakota currently use the technology for mapping roads. In some counties, NDGPS will be integrated with E-911 systems to provide accurate addresses for rural households.

NDGPS will allow hospital helicopters to electronically locate accident sites. The need for such technology was evident two winters ago when a Webster woman became stranded in her car in the middle of a blizzard. Running low on gas, and with the temperature around -50 degrees, it took rescue crews several hours to find her and take her to safety.

The US Geological Survey will also map potential flood areas in the state, potentially saving lives and millions of dollars in property. Considering the farms and communities already inundated with flooding from the past two years, I am pleased this technology will allow South Dakotans to take a proactive approach to identifying potential flood areas.

The Mid-Dakota Rural Water System is using NDGPS to locate PVC pipeline for its system that will provide clean drinking water to over 30,000 South Dakotans who currently rely on wells or municipal water trucked to their home.

One of the most promising benefits of NDGPS technology will probably come in agriculture, South Dakota's number one industry. I look forward to working with agriculture leaders in South Dakota to promote and support this technology in a way that makes NDGPS an affordable and accessible tool. NDGPS, used in precision farming, may save \$5 to 14 per acre by showing farmers exactly how best to apply fertilizer and chemical inputs on their land, so as to treat the land well for future generations while cutting costs now. NDGPS-based field mapping helps determine more accurate yields and makes it easier to more accurately utilize fertilizers, chemicals, and crop inputs. This technology can also be used by farmers to keep better crop produc-

tion records. For example, this technology makes it possible for a properly equipped spray rig to switch chemicals or rates of application to address a specific weed problem in a specific section of the field.

As of today, March 15, 1999, the NDGPS technology is available in every community in South Dakota. I want to commend Rudy Persaud and the many others involved with NDGPS for their dedication and hard work and look forward to working with them on future uses of this incredible technology.●

#### CHILD DEVELOPMENT ACT

● Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I address you today to speak about a problem that is one of the most pressing facing our nation today. Ten million children in America are eligible for federal child care assistance, yet we provide for only 1.4 million of them. Fully 86 percent of eligible children are left unattended or are forced into inadequate facilities that are often overcrowded. These are the only viable options for parents who are struggling to make ends meet even in these times of national prosperity. The waiting list for child care assistance in many states extends to tens of thousands of eligible families. And so many parents who would give almost anything to be able to stay at home and care for their children themselves simply can't afford to do so. Something needs to be done soon. The problems that we are facing today will only compound as children who have been inadequately cared for struggle in school and society. As President Kennedy said, "the time to fix the roof is when the sun is shining."

Today I reintroduce the most ambitious effort to address this problem to date, The Child Development Act. With this one piece of legislation, our nation will cut our most threatening problem in half. This bill provides support for half of the ten million American children who are eligible for federal child support assistance, and provides billions of dollars in tax credits for parents who choose to stay home with their children.

The Child Development Act will help children and their parents several ways. First, it will greatly increase funding for the CCDBG program, a tried and proven method of providing for care of our children. The bulk of this money (\$37.5 billion over 5 years) will be used to provide more affordability for families wanting to enroll their children in child care programs. There is also \$4 billion in CCDBG funds set aside for improving the quality of child care in our country, which is definitely necessary as Children's Defense Fund studies show that 6 out of 7 child care facilities in this country provide only poor to mediocre service, and one out of eight centers actually put the

safety of children at risk. Five billion dollars in CCDBG increases is set aside for improving afterschool programs for school age children. Additional \$2 billion in CCDBG increases is allocated for new child care facilities construction (\$500 million) providing 50,000 to 75,000 new high quality child care slots each year; increases in public/private partnerships where states and local communities' private sectors must each match twenty five percent of grants (\$500 million); and \$1 billion is allocated for professional development of child care workers. The remaining portions of the \$62.5 billion bill are \$1 billion in loan forgiveness to those who earn a degree and work in early childhood education, and \$13 billion in tax credits for low- and middle-income working parents, so that they can better afford quality care for their children. Those parents who make the tough financial decision to stay at home and care for their children will be greatly assisted by this provision.

Research has shown that much of what happens in life depends upon the first three years of development. The brain is so profoundly influenced during this time because the brain of a three-year-old has twice as many synapses (connections between brain cells) as that of her adult parents. The process of brain development is actually one of "pruning" out the synapses that one does not need (or more accurately, does not use) from those that become the brains standard "wiring." This is why the first three years of development are so important—this is the time that the brain must develop the wiring that is going to be used for the rest of one's life. According to a report on brain development published by the Families and Work Institute, "Early care and nurture have a decisive, long lasting impact on how people develop, their ability to learn, and their capacity to control their own emotions." If children do not receive proper care before the age of three, they never receive the chance to develop into fully functioning adults.

We are not allowing our children a chance in life when we do not provide them with proper care in their early years. If America is to achieve its goal of equal opportunity for our children, we need to start with proper care in their early years. It is a painful statistic then that our youngest citizens are also some of the poorest Americans. One out of every four of our country's 12 million children under the age of three live in poverty. It becomes very difficult to break out of the cycle of poverty if poor children are not allowed to develop into fully functioning adults.

Yet many parents in America do not have the option of providing adequate care for their children. For parents who can barely afford rent it is nearly impossible to take advantage of the

Family Medical Leave Act, and sacrifice 12 weeks of pay in order to directly supervise a child. Many mothers need to return to work shortly after giving birth and find that the only options open to them are to place their children in care that is substandard, even potentially dangerous—but affordable. According to the Children's Defense Fund, six out of seven child care centers provide only poor to mediocre care, and one in eight centers provide care that could jeopardize children's safety and development. The same study said that one in three home-based care situations could be harmful to a child's development. How can we abide by these statistics?

This is a serious problem, and frighteningly widespread. The eligibility levels set for receiving child care aid through the federal Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is 85 percent of a state's median income. Nationally, this came out to about \$35,000 for a family of three in 1998. However, according to the Children's Defense Fund, fully half of all families with young children earn less than \$35,000 per year. Half! A family that has two parents working full time at minimum wage earns only \$21,400 per year. This is not nearly enough to even dream of adequate child care.

Child care costs in the United States for one child in full-day day care range from \$4,000 to \$10,000 a year. It is not surprising that, on average, families with incomes under \$15,000 a year spend 23 percent of their annual incomes on child care. And in West Virginia, if a family of three makes more than that \$15,000, they no longer qualify for child care aid! In fact, thirty-two states do not allow a family of three which earns \$25,000 a year (approximately 185 percent of poverty) to qualify for help. Only four states in our nation set eligibility cut-offs for receiving child care assistance at 85 percent of median family income, the maximum allowed by federal law. There is obviously not enough funding to support the huge need for child care assistance in our nation, and that is why I am proposing the Child Care Development Act.

There is widespread support for expanded investments to improve the affordability and quality of child care. A recent survey of 550 police chiefs found that nine out of ten police chiefs surveyed agreed that "America could sharply reduce crime if government invested more in programs to help children and youth get a good start" such as Head Start and child care. Mayors across the country identified child care, more than any other issue, as one of the most pressing issues facing children and families in their communities in 1996 survey. A recent poll found that a bipartisan majority of those polled support increased investments in helping families pay for child care—specifically, 74% of those polled favor a bill to

help low-income and middle-class families pay for child care, including 79% of Democrats, 69% of Republicans, and 76% of Independents.

It is clear that many like to talk about supporting our children, and many are in favor of supporting our children, but what action is actually taken? Yes, the addition of new child care dollars in 1996 has helped welfare recipients, but it has done nothing for working, low-income families not receiving TANF. The Children's Defense Fund recommends that Congress pass comprehensive legislation that guarantees at least \$20 billion over five years in new funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG). My Child Care Development Act goes beyond this, yet even my bill is just a first step. This bill is designed to provide affordable, quality child care to half of the ten million American children presently in need of subsidized care. It will provide \$62.5 billion over 5 years—\$12.5 billion a year—nearly three times the amount proposed in the President's most ambitious, and still unprosecuted, proposal. In 1997 the President proposed extending care to 600,000 children from poor families, leaving fully 80% of eligible children without aid. The last time we heard about that proposal was 1997.

If we are serious about putting parents to work and protecting children, we need to invest more in families and in child care help for them. Enabling families to work and helping children thrive means giving states enough money so that they can set reasonable eligibility levels, let families know that help is available, and take working families off the waiting lists.

The Child Care Development Act will require \$62.5 billion over five years. There will be several offsets necessary if we are serious about giving children in this country the type of care they need and deserve. Shifting spending from these offsets demonstrates that our true national priority is children, not wasteful military spending and corporate tax loopholes.

The offsets that will be necessary are as follows. If we repeal the reductions in the Corporate Minimum Tax from the 1997 Budget Bill, we create \$8.2 billion. The elimination of the Special Oil and Gas Depletion Allowance will make room for and additional \$4.3 billion. An offset of \$575 million will come from a repeal of the Enhanced Oil Recovery Credit and an offset of \$13.8 billion will come from the elimination of exclusion for Foreign-Earned Income. From these four different offsets in tax provisions a sub total amount of \$26.8 billion is created to spend on child care.

Defense cuts will also be necessary in the amount of \$24.4 billion. This will come from canceling the F-22, a plane plagued with troubles, which will free up \$19.3 billion, and \$5.1 billion will

come from a reduction in Nuclear Delivery Systems Within Overall Limits of START II.

The remaining offsets can be made by reducing the Intelligence Budget by 5%, which would save \$6.7 billion; by reducing Military Export Subsidies by \$850 million; and by canceling the International Space Station, which costs \$10 billion. All of which, when added together, allows for an additional \$68.8 billion to be used to support our children.

This is, finally, a child care bill on the same scope as the problem itself. We as a nation are neglecting the most vulnerable and important portion of our society—our children. Here is an ambitious solution to this vast problem that has been plaguing our country, so that we don't have to be a country that just talks about putting our children first.●

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#### RECOGNITION OF STEVEN BOLTON, MD

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to honor Dr. Steven Bolton, who was recently awarded the Mary Maurita Sengelau, RSM, Award for Meritorious Service for 1998. This award is presented annually to a person "whose contributions to the healing ministry are in striking harmony with the works of Catherine McAuley, foundress and first Sister of Mercy."

Steve Bolton was raised in the city of Detroit. While growing up in the city his parents placed a strong emphasis on helping the less fortunate in our society, and they passed that feeling along to Norman, Kenneth and Steven. This experience led Steve to dedicate himself to becoming a doctor in order to "understand what makes us human and to use this knowledge to help others." Steve eventually came to understand how poverty affects the health of the "working poor" and is now a general surgeon at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland making a difference in the lives of working families.

Steve Bolton has also served over the past seven years as volunteer medical director of Mercy Place in Pontiac, Michigan. Mercy Place is a clinic offering free health care to the community. In addition to his demanding work schedule as a general surgeon, Steve volunteers several days a week at the clinic. He also often donates his professional fees if a patient needs surgery and cannot afford to pay.

Mr. President, Dr. Steve Bolton is most deserving of the Mary Maurita Sengelau, RSM, Award for Meritorious Service. I know my Senate colleagues join me in honoring this extraordinary individual for the outstanding work he does on behalf of the community.●