

Crimes Prevention Act and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. And we should reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act.

No American should be subjected to discrimination in finding a home, getting a job, going to school, or securing a loan. Tonight, I propose the largest ever investment to enforce America's civil rights laws. Protections in law must be protections in fact.

Last February, I created the White House Office of One America to promote racial reconciliation. That's what Hank Aaron, has done all his life. From his days as baseball's all-time homerun king to his recent acts of healing, he has always brought Americans together. We're pleased he's with us tonight.

This fall, at the White House, one of America's leading scientists said something we should all remember. He said all human beings, genetically, are 99.9 percent the same. So modern science affirms what ancient faith has always taught: the most important fact of life is our common humanity.

Therefore, we must do more than tolerate diversity—we must honor it and celebrate it.

My fellow Americans, each time I prepare for the State of the Union, I approach it with great hope and expectations for our nation. But tonight is special—because we stand on the mountaintop of a new millennium. Behind us we see the great expanse of American achievement; before us, even grander frontiers of possibility.

We should be filled with gratitude and humility for our prosperity and progress; with awe and joy at what lies ahead; and with absolute determination to make the most of it.

When the framers finished crafting our Constitution, Benjamin Franklin stood in Independence Hall and reflected on a painting of the sun, low on the horizon. He said, "I have often wondered whether that sun was rising or setting." "Today," Franklin said, "I have the happiness to know it is a rising sun." Well, today, because each generation of Americans has kept the fire of freedom burning brightly, lighting those frontiers of possibility, we still bask in the warmth of Mr. Franklin's rising sun.

After 224 years, the American Revolution continues. We remain a new nation. As long as our dreams outweigh our memories, America will be forever young. That is our destiny. And this is our moment.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 8:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which

it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 241. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint resolution of Congress to receive a message from the President on the State of the Union.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the Calendar:

S. 2006. A bill for the relief of Yongyi Song.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BROWNBACK (for himself, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. LOTT, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire):

S. 2010. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to follow normal rulemaking procedures in establishing additional requirements for noncommercial educational television broadcasters; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2011. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to expand the prohibition on stalking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KYL:

S. 2012. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax to elementary and secondary school teachers who provide classroom materials; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LOTT (for Mr. McCAIN):

S. 2013. A bill to restore health care equity for medicare-eligible uniformed services retirees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. KYL:

S. 2012. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax to elementary and secondary school teachers who provide classroom materials; to the Committee on Finance.

TEACHER TAX CREDIT RELIEF ACT, 2000

• Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Teacher Tax Credit Relief Act of 2000. The act would provide an annual tax credit of up to \$100 for teachers' un-reimbursed classroom expenditures that are qualified under the Internal Revenue Code.

Thomas Jefferson once said that "an educated citizenry is essential for the preservation of democracy." It falls to our teachers—through their hard work and lifetime of commitment to young people—to inculcate the academic values and analytical skills that make good citizenship possible.

In my discussions with teachers—public and private—I have been amazed

to learn that many use their own money to cover the cost of classroom materials that are not supplied by their schools or school districts. These expenditures enhance our children's education but are paid for out-of-pocket.

In fact, in 1996, according to a study by the National Education Association, the average K-12 teacher spent \$408 annually on classroom materials needed for education but not supplied by the schools. These materials include everything from books, workbooks, erasers, paper, pens, equipment related to classroom instruction, and professional enrichment programs.

Under current law, a tax deduction is allowed for such expenses, but only if the teacher itemizes, and only if the expenses exceed two percent of the teacher's AGI. Of course, a deduction just reduces taxable income. A credit would give teachers relief dollar-for-dollar spent, up to the \$100 annual limit.

On a modest income, teachers provide an incalculable service to our country. Surely, we should not expect them to pay for school supplies out of their salary, when they have already committed their lives to the education of our young.

A similar provision enacted by the Arizona legislature in 1995 has been extremely well-received by teachers. The provision was recently upheld as constitutional by the Arizona Supreme Court.

Please join me in supporting this bill. Our teachers deserve to be at least partially reimbursed for financial sacrifices they make to educate our nation's children.●

By Mr. LOTT (for Mr. McCAIN):

S. 2013. A bill to restore health care equity for Medicare-eligible uniformed services retirees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

HONORING HEALTH CARE COMMITMENTS TO SERVICEMEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT ACT OF 2000

• Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, last November, I spoke on the floor of the Senate about the severe deficiencies in our nation's military health care delivery system. We, as a nation, face a very critical challenge in determining how best to reconfigure the military health care delivery system so that it can continue to meet its military readiness and peace-time obligations during this period of ongoing change in our base and force structure.

This is a challenge that has concerned me for some time. As I have been working on this matter and deciding how best to proceed, I have met with, and heard from, many military family members, veterans, and military retirees from around the country. And, in that process, I have been inundated with suggestions for reform. During every meeting and in every letter,