

has overwhelming bipartisan support. But House and Senate leaders have yet to schedule a vote.

Versions of the bill have been favorably reported by the judiciary committees of both chambers. Both would expand programs that during the past five years have helped create an infrastructure capable of prosecuting domestic violence cases and providing services to battered women. Since the original act was passed, Congress has devoted \$1.5 billion to programs created by it. The House and Senate bills differ, but both would authorize more than \$3 billion in further support during the next five years. There is room to debate the proper funding level relative to other priorities, a matter which will be determined later by appropriators; and the programs won't end immediately if the act lapses, because funds have been approved for the coming year. But failing to reauthorize would send the wrong message on an important issue and, more important, could threaten future appropriations.

With time in the 106th Congress running out, the Violence Against Women Act may become a casualty of neglect rather than of active opposition. But that's no comfort. Congress ought to find the time to pass it before leaving town.

NAKAMURA COURTHOUSE

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today the Washington state Congressional delegation introduced bills in the House and in the Senate to honor a fallen hero, William Kenzo Nakamura, by designating the Seattle federal courthouse in his honor. This brave soldier fought in Italy during World War II, and he died valiantly protecting his battalion. The day he died, Mr. Nakamura had already risked his life and saved his combat team by disarming an enemy machine gun stronghold. Mr. Nakamura should have received the Medal of Honor for this act of bravery, but he did not.

Even as this man's family was held in an internment camp in Idaho, he volunteered for duty in the United States military, and he headed to Italy to serve his country. After his heroic and selfless deeds, Mr. Nakamura was posthumously eligible for the Medal of Honor, but in World War II the Army did not award Japanese-Americans the Medal of Honor. I was pleased that earlier this year that twenty-two veterans, in similar circumstances to and including Mr. Nakamura, received Medals of Honor for their brave service in World War II. These men and their families waited too long for proper recognition and appreciation, and these honors are well deserved.

Though military heroes are often given medals for their service, the people of Washington state would like to extend a special tribute to Mr. Nakamura by naming the federal courthouse in Seattle in his honor. This action has not only the support of the entire Washington congressional delegation, but of local communities, veteran and military retiree organizations, and by Medal of Honor recipients

in the Senate, my friends DANIEL INOUE and BOB KERREY. To this outpouring, I add my support and commitment to seeing this designation passed through the Senate and acted into law.

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

September 26, 1999: Robert Coney, 64, Miami, FL; Derrick Edwards, 22, Washington, DC; Philip Harris, 27, Detroit, MI; Samala McGee, 24, New Orleans, LA; Michael D. Miles, 48, Hollywood, FL; David Sexton, 43, Baltimore, MD; and Unidentified Female, 47, Nashville, TN.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

THE IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise to make a few remarks concerning the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000.

Mr. President, before I begin, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleague, Senator GREGG, for his leadership on this important legislation.

I rise today to lend my support to S. 2341, the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000. One of my top priorities as a United States Senator has been to provide equal access to high quality public education for all children, including those with special needs. My commitment to education for those with special needs began while I was a State legislator and worked with the Oregon Disabilities Council to ensure that children with special needs had equal access to a quality education. I have continued that work here in the Senate, but realize that we have a long ways to go.

This legislation takes a step in the right direction by funding the federal mandates put forth in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These federal funds will free up state and local dollars that can then be used in the classroom for new textbooks, pencils and computers that are necessary for students to learn.

In 1954, the Supreme Court established, in *Brown v. Board of Education*, that all children are guaranteed equal access to education under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. Despite this decision, it was estimated that one million children with disabilities were being denied access to public education. It was not until 1975, with the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, that equal access to education was extended to children with disabilities.

The purpose of the 1975 IDEA legislation was "[T]o assure that all children with disabilities have available to them, a free appropriate public education which emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet the unique needs, to assure the rights of children with disabilities and their parents or guardians are protected, to assist States and localities to provide for the education of all children with disabilities, and to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate children with disabilities."

With the passage of IDEA the federal government promised to assist states with 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure for disabled children. Based on the national average per pupil expenditure for the year 2000, 40 percent of that average would represent approximately \$2,500 per student. However, since 1975 the federal government has not met this commitment. In fact, the federal government gets an "F" in arithmetic in this instance, currently paying only 12.7 percent of the per pupil expenditure.

But, we are slowly working to improve this grade. In 1997, funding for IDEA was only \$2.6 billion. In the last 3 years, the Republican-controlled Congress has nearly doubled Federal funding on IDEA to approximately \$4.9 billion. Although Congress has allocated more money to IDEA, current funding levels are 3.1 times less than what is needed to fully fund the forty percent commitment.

The purpose of providing this additional funding to the IDEA program is to free up local and state dollars. Currently state and local education agencies have been forced to divert their precious resources to pay for the additional costs, due to federal mandates, of educating children with disabilities.

As a result, Washington has created an inappropriate and unfair conflict between children with disabilities and children without. We owe it to all children to live up to our responsibility and resolve this conflict.

This important legislation would take a step in that direction by authorizing funding for Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to reach the Federal government's goal of providing 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure to assist states and local education agencies with the excess costs of educating children with disabilities.