WIC FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Department of Defense authorization bill that we will resume on Monday contains a provision that would provide nutritious dairy and other food products for the family. However, due to a legal quirk, WIC is not available for Americans on overseas military bases.

This effort, by you and others, would help reduce the pressure on these young families, improve the health of mother and baby, and enhance the quality of life for Americans serving their country halfway around the world.

Janet perfectly summarized why we should provide WIC to our military personnel: My bill, and the amendment included in the DOD bill, provide that the Secretary of Defense will administer such a program under rules similar to the WIC program administered by the Secretary of Agriculture within the United States.

For 26 years the WIC program has provided nutritious foods to low-income pregnant, post-partum and breastfeeding women, infants, and children who are judged to be at a nutritional risk.

It has proven itself to be a great investment: For every dollar invested in the WIC program, an estimated $3 is saved in future medical expenses. WIC has helped to prevent low birth weight babies and associated risks such as developmental disabilities, birth defects, and other complications. Participation in the WIC program has also been linked to reductions in infant mortality.

These same benefits should be provided overseas to military families who are serving our country, living miles from their homes on military bases in foreign lands, and whose nutritional health is at risk. If they were stationed within our borders, their diets would be supplemented by the WIC program, and they would receive vouchers or packages of healthy foods, such as fortified cereals and juices, high protein products, and other foods especially rich in needed minerals and vitamins.

My bill has been in direct contact with military officials on this matter and they have expressed a strong desire for this reform. I know that many Vermonters stationed overseas want WIC benefits to be offered at their bases. We should not turn our backs on these Americans stationed abroad.

My bill last year, and this amendment, disregard the value of in-kind nutritional assistance in calculating eligibility which increases the number of women, infants and children that can participate and makes the program similar to the program in the United States. This is the correct approach—let’s not shortchange our service personnel stationed overseas.

The average monthly food cost would be around $30 to $35 for each participant, based on Department of Defense estimates of the cost of an average WIC food package in accompany.

As many as 40,000 to 50,000 persons could be eligible for this program, but it is uncertain how many of those would apply. In the United States, 80 percent of those who are eligible actually apply.

Dépenses de santé—qui incluent les médicaments, la santé et les services nutritionnels—sont probablement de l’ordre de $10 par participant par mois. Nous connaissons les expériences où chaque dollar investi dans WIC est un investissement très rentable, qui a un effet multiplicateur, de l’ordre de 3 dollars pour chaque dollar investi.

Il a fait preuve de lui-même en devenant un investissement majeur: Pour chaque dollar investi dans le programme WIC, un estimé de 3 dollars est économisé en coûts futurs médicaux. Le programme WIC a aidé à prévenir le perte de poids des nouveau-nés et les risques associés tels que les déficiences développementales, les déficiences et d’autres complications. La participation au programme WIC a également été liée à des réductions dans la mortalité infantile.

Ces mêmes bénéfices devraient être offerts aux militaires qui servent notre pays, vivant à des milliers de kilomètres de leurs maisons sur des bases militaires à l’étranger, et dont la santé nutritionnelle est à risque. Si ils étaient stationnés dans notre pays, leurs diététiques seraient complétées par le programme WIC, et ils recevraient des vouchers ou des paquets de nourritures saines, tels que des céréales enrichies, des jus, des produits à forte teneur en protéines, et d’autres aliments riches en éléments minéraux et vitamines.

Mon amendement de cette année, et celui de cet amendement, ignore la valeur des services nutritionnels en nature dans le calcul de l’éligibilité qui augmente le nombre de femmes, d’enfants et d’enfants qui peuvent participer et qui rend le programme similaire au programme aux États-Unis. C’est le bon approche—laissons-nous pas transformer notre service personnel stationnés en dehors des frontières.

Le coût moyen mensuel de la nourriture serait d’environ $30 à $35 pour chaque participant, basé sur des estimations de l’administration de la Défense des coûts de l’alimentation moyenne WIC dans la compagnie d’accompagnement.

Il y aurait jusqu’à 40,000 à 50,000 personnes qui pourraient être éligibles à ce programme, mais il est incertain combien de ces personnes seraient amenées à s’y inscrire. Aux États-Unis, 80% de celles qui sont éligibles le sont effectivement.
NATIONAL SERVICE—LEARNING LEADER SCHOOL AWARD WINNERS

- Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the Corporation for National Service recently announced the winners of the second annual National Service—Learning Leader Schools Program, a Presidential Award that recognizes schools for excellence in service-learning.

Learn and Serve America, one of the three national service programs of the Corporation for National Service, is sponsoring the National Service—Learning Leader Schools. The Leader Schools initiative is designed to develop student leaders through community service learning. By the 1998–99 school year, schools were offering service programs in 75 percent and 46 percent, respectively. Three schools in Massachusetts—Wareham High School and Wareham Middle School in Wareham and Tantasqua Regional Junior–Senior High School in Paxton—are among the sixty-six Leader Schools that were honored in 1984 as National Service Learning Leader Schools.

The Leader Schools program is not simply an awards program. The schools have committed to assist other schools through mentoring and coaching in the development of their service-learning programs. The Corporation for National Service also administers AmeriCorps, the domestic Peace Corps, and the Senior Service Corps which enables fifty-five year olds and older to share their time and talents to help solve local problems.

All of these programs are achieving great success under the auspices of the Corporation. The sixty-six Leader Schools will be honored in a ceremony at the Kennedy Center. Each year, the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. Each year, the MacArthur Foundation awards 20 or so unrestricted $500,000 grants to, and I quote, “talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication...” These so-called “genius grants” are among the most prestigious in the world. The sixty-six Leader Schools will be honored in a ceremony at the Kennedy Center. Each year, the MacArthur Foundation awards 20 or so unrestricted $500,000 grants to, and I quote, “talented individuals who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication...” These so-called “genius grants” are among the most prestigious in the world.

Susan is the Executive Director of Mobility International USA. Mobility International’s mission is to empower people with disabilities and women, through international exchange, and by providing information, technical assistance, and training to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities in international exchange and development programs.

Right now, Mobility International is, among other things, facilitating a program to develop relationships between...