a contingency plan for delivering aid to Sudan. CBO estimates that enacting S. 180 would have no significant budgetary impact.

The act would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. S. 180 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Each year the United States provides nearly $190 million in assistance to the people of Sudan for emergency food, disaster assistance, refugee assistance, and development assistance programs. The provisions of S. 180 would not substantially expand the Administration’s authority to provide such assistance. CBO estimates that spending on those emergency and humanitarian programs would continue at current levels.

The bill contains several reporting and contingency planning requirements that would not affect the State Department’s or the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) workload significantly. Based on information from the department and USAID, CBO estimates that enacting S. 180 would use the agency’s spending in less than $500,000 annually, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

On June 7, 2001, CBO prepared an estimate for a similar bill, H.R. 2052, as ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations, on June 6, 2001. Like S. 180, H.R. 2052 would not significantly affect discretionary spending. That bill would require disclosure of business activities in Sudan prior to an entity trading its securities in any capital market in the United States. That provision constitutes a private-sector mandate, as defined in UMRA, but the cost of the mandate would fall below the annual threshold established in UMRA ($13 million in 2001, adjusted annually for inflation).

The CBO staff contact is Joseph C. Whitehill, who can be reached at 226–2860. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

COST ESTIMATE ON S. 1021
Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, on July 12, the Committee on Foreign Relations reported S. 1021, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act for three years through fiscal year 2004, and I am glad to report that it has come before this committee.

S. 1021: A BILL TO REAUTHORIZE THE TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2004
[As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on July 12, 2001]

SUMMARY
S. 1021 would reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act for three years through fiscal year 2004 and would authorize the appropriation of $225 million for the cost of implementing the act over that period. Assuming the appropriation of the authorized amount, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost $221 million over the 2002–2006 period. Because S. 1021 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act authorizes the Secretary of State to negotiate agreements with eligible countries to create local funds administered by local boards, with the authority to make grants to preserve, maintain, and restore tropical forests. The local funds receive a stream of payments generated by modifying the terms of outstanding development assistance or food aid owed to the United States. The debt modifications include authority to reduce and restructure debt, to swap the debt, or to sell the debt back to an eligible country in ways that will generate income for the local funds. The amounts authorized by S. 1021 would be used to cover the cost, as defined by the Federal Credit Reform Act, of modifying the debt.

S. 1021 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1021 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 150 (international affairs).

By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—

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1 The 2001 level is the amount appropriated for that year. The costs of implementing the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost $221 million over the 2002–2006 period. Because S. 1021 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

S. 1021 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE
On June 21, 2001, CBO prepared an estimate for H.R. 2311, a bill to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2004, and I am glad to report that it has come before this committee.

S. 1021: A BILL TO REAUTHORIZE THE TROPICAL FOREST CONSERVATION ACT OF 1998 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2004
[As reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on July 12, 2001]

SUMMARY
S. 1021 would reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act for three years through fiscal year 2004 and would authorize the appropriation of $225 million for the cost of implementing the act over that period. Assuming the appropriation of the authorized amount, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost $221 million over the 2002–2006 period. Because S. 1021 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act authorizes the Secretary of State to negotiate agreements with eligible countries to create local funds administered by local boards, with the authority to make grants to preserve, maintain, and restore tropical forests. The local funds receive a stream of payments generated by modifying the terms of outstanding development assistance or food aid owed to the United States. The debt modifications include authority to reduce and restructure debt, to swap the debt, or to sell the debt back to an eligible country in ways that will generate income for the local funds. The amounts authorized by S. 1021 would be used to cover the cost, as defined by the Federal Credit Reform Act, of modifying the debt.

S. 1021 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of S. 1021 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 150 (international affairs).

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1 The 2001 level is the amount appropriated for that year. The costs of implementing the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost $221 million over the 2002–2006 period. Because S. 1021 would not affect direct spending or receipts, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.
The State Department has urged the Belarusian authorities to mount a credible investigation for the disappearance of former Minister of Internal Affairs Yury Zakharenka, 13th Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Viktor Gonchar and his associate Anatoly Krasovsky, as well as Russian television cameraman Dmitry Zavadsky. They have urged the immediate release of political prisoners and 13th Supreme Soviet members Andrei Klimov and Valery Shchukin. Such an investigation, as well as the release of political prisoners, will be an essential factor in reducing the current climate of fear.

Finally, the Belarusian authorities need to work with the OSCE to facilitate the work of international and domestic observers and to help ensure that all candidates are able to organize freely, without harassment, and carry their campaigns to the people.

While it is not yet too late for the Belarusian authorities to take the steps necessary and a more positive climate conducive to elections that will meet international democratic standards, time is of the essence. Free and fair presidential elections are an essential step if Belarus is to move ahead and end its self-imposed isolation. As President Bush has remarked in connection with this week's observance of Captive Nations Week, America must remain vigilant in our support of those living under authoritarianism. The people of Belarus and all those who support them as they seek to overcome the legacy of the past and build an independent nation based on democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

NURSE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT OF 2001

Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I want to commend Senator ROCKEFELLER, Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, VA, for his leadership on the measure we are introducing today, the Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2001.

I also want to commend Senator ROCKEFELLER for conducting his first hearing as newly appointed Chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs on the looming nursing shortage. The Federal health sector, employing approximately 45,000 nurses and the VA as the single largest employer of nurses may be the hardest hit in the near future with an estimated 47 percent of its nursing workforce eligible for retirement in the year 2004. Current and anticipated nursing vacancies in Federal health care agencies are particularly alarming with the increased nursing care needs of an aging America. The Journal of the American Medical Association published a study last year which found the average age of the nursing workforce rose by 4.5 years between 1983 and 1998, mostly because fewer younger people are joining the profession.

It is imperative that the VA have the ability to recruit and retain nurses. Expert witnesses, like Nurses' Organization of Veterans Affairs, VA President Sarah Meyers R.N., Ph.D. of Atlanta, GA, testified at the June 14 hearing. These witnesses identified critical issues ranging from those impacting VA nurses' ability to continue to safely care for veterans to nursing burn-out. Senator ROCKEFELLER and I have developed a comprehensive proposal to address both recruitment and retention of VA nurses.

The Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2001 includes provisions for the nurse scholarship program and education debt reduction. The bill's other needed measures to enhance retention of nurses are: Saturday premium pay for nurses and other identified health professionals, increased pay for Albright and sick leave in retirement computation for nurses enrolled in the Federal Employees Retirement System, FERS, and full-time service credit in annuity computation for part-time service prior to April 7, 1986. Also proposed are reports to Congress on: (1) the use of mandatory overtime with recommendations for alternative staffing strategies and (2) the encouraged use of waivers of pay reduction for reemployed annuitants to fill needed nurse positions to enhance recruitment.

The Nurse Recruitment and Retention Act of 2001 is needed now in order for VA nurses to continue to care for this country's veterans.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KRKOWIAK and Senator SPECTER in March of this year. The Local law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in 1998 in Boston, MA. A 27-year old gay man was allegedly attacked and beaten when he was walking home from work by assailants who shouted anti-gay epithets. One of the attackers called the letter "F," presumably for "faggot," on the victim's shoulder.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

COSPONSORSHIP OF S. 1188

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, because of a clerical mistake, Senator SPECTER was not listed as an original