

The CBO staff contact for federal costs is Joseph C. Whitehill. The CBO staff contact for private-sector mandates is Paige Piper/Bach. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY RESEARCH

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, S. 805, introduced on May 1, is a vital step toward the day when advanced research will find ways to halt, and even cure, life-threatening muscular dystrophy.

Muscular dystrophy is a genetic disorder, actually a number of separate disorders, that are characterized by weakening and eventual wasting of muscles throughout the body. A quarter of a million Americans of all ages are affected by these disorders. One form, Duchenne, strikes young boys and usually takes their lives before they reach their twenties. Other forms that affect adults are also severely debilitating and can be devastating to the victims and their families.

Since 1966, entertainer Jerry Lewis has hosted the annual Muscular Dystrophy Labor Day Telethon, calling the Nation's attention to the muscular dystrophies and seeking help for individuals and families affected by these diseases. Jerry Lewis is the National Chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Association which, through its Telethon and year-round fund raising activities, has raised hundreds of millions of dollars for programs of direct patient services, research and summer camp. The MDA program supports a nationwide network of 230 clinics, which are affiliated with hospitals and universities, sends more than 4,000 youngsters it serves to MDA summer camps, and helps pay for wheelchairs, braces, and various therapies for people with muscular dystrophy.

In addition to providing these direct patient and family services, MDA expends about \$30 million per year to support scientific research. Over the past half century, MDA has funded research that was vital in developing the protocols that resulted in groundbreaking discoveries in genetic mapping. This extraordinary organization has played a key role in identifying the gene defects that cause virtually all of the forms of muscular dystrophy. The Muscular Dystrophy Association is to be commended for its work and can be justifiably proud of the very positive role it has in assisting those affected by neuromuscular disease. In fact, the implications of their research extend to all of the estimated 5,000 genetic-based diseases affecting all of mankind. With all of the research insights and opportunities made available by this organization, it is time for us to help.

The next critical phase in muscular dystrophy research is to apply these basic scientific discoveries to the de-

velopment of effective therapies. That will require substantial Federal funding. Authorizing such a vigorous Federal effort is the purpose of S. 805. The bill calls upon NIH and the Centers for Disease Control to establish Centers of Excellence in which intensified clinical research can be conducted which will speed the discovery of treatments and cures for the various forms of muscular dystrophy.

S. 805 provides the Director of the NIH and the Directors of the several institutes within NIH that conduct muscular dystrophy research with the authority and responsibility to concentrate and intensify that research effort. The bill also authorizes the funds needed to conduct essential clinical trials. In short, it gives NIH the organization and the mandate to exploit recent advances in gene therapy. The goal is the swiftest possible rescue for children and adults whose lives will otherwise be lost or badly damaged by muscular dystrophy.

Mr. President, the Congress has responded generously and often to the demands for research funding aimed at other diseases that shorten or impair the lives of Americans. It is time to add muscular dystrophy to the list of those diseases. I commend my colleagues for introducing S. 805, and I regret that I am just now getting the opportunity to deliver this statement, two weeks after my name was added to this important legislation as a cosponsor.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY 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 October 23, 1994 in Buena Park, California. Two men parked near a gay bar were slashed with broken bottles and beaten by a group of men who shouted anti-gay epithets and stole the victims' car.

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.

THE TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE FOR WORKERS, FARMERS, COMMUNITIES, AND FIRMS ACT OF 2001

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Madam President, I rise today to lend my full sup-

port to the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Workers, Farmers, Communities, and Firms Act of 2001, which I introduced today along with Senators BINGAMAN, BAUCUS, and DASCHLE. I particularly want to congratulate Senator BINGAMAN on all the hard work and dedication that he has shown on this issue over the past several months in crafting this piece of legislation, which is so critical to American workers and their families.

Improving and expanding TAA is a priority for us, and we hope it will become a priority for Congress and for the President as well. This bill is not just a reauthorization but an improvement to our current TAA program—and not a moment too soon. Earlier this week, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve told us our economic outlook remains troubling. We know that means there will be more and more workers and families who will need to turn to TAA for help to rebuild their futures.

In addition to reauthorizing TAA for an additional five years, this bill makes substantial improvements to the TAA program as a whole. The bill extends possible TAA benefits for an additional 26 weeks, provides wage insurance for many displaced workers over 50, and expands coverage for secondary workers and workers whose jobs were lost when companies shifted their operations overseas.

Given the massive legacy cost issue facing our steel companies, I particularly wanted to take action to provide health care and child care benefits for workers who have lost their jobs due to imports. At my urging, the bill contains several health care provisions, including a refundable tax credit for 50 percent of COBRA benefits and a provision that links TAA beneficiaries to child care and health benefits that they are entitled to under TANF.

As we expand coverage and benefits available under TAA, however, we still have to remember what's really important in this debate: TAA cannot substitute for a good job, and too many good jobs are being lost due to our current trade policies. That's what we really need to focus on, although we still need TAA because there will always be workers who need it.

As Governor of West Virginia in the 1980's and later as a U.S. Senator, I have seen firsthand the devastation that import surges have wrought on manufacturing communities. I have walked the streets of Welch, knowing that one in four people I met that day were unemployed. I have been to Weirton and Wheeling and seen the impact of the recent surge of dumped and subsidized steel imports on the economic landscape and the collective psyche of those communities as thousands of steelworkers, as well as workers whose jobs depend on those steel companies staying open, have been laid