CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—SENATE  
September 20, 2001

scars on families and communities. The Senate must actively combat this violence and work to address the concerns of families and communities throughout our nation who worry about the safety of their children.

I am introducing this resolution again because I firmly believe that we must involve our children and young people in working to end gun violence. This resolution commemorates a special day that gives young people the opportunity to examine how they can help reduce gun violence that targets their peers. Additionally, this special day promotes the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence, an important avenue through which young people can empower themselves and their friends to take action against these tragedies.

The pledge was developed by Mary Lewis Grow, a Minnesota homemaker. Students who take the pledge agree to never bring a gun to school, to never use a gun to resolve a conflict, and to encourage their friends to do the same. Last year, more than 2.4 million students signed the pledge. The pledge has received national support from such prominent organizations as the National Parent Teacher Association, the National School Boards Association, and the American Medical Association. It is entirely appropriate that the Senate lend its powerful voice to this cause.

Just imagine how many young people would still be alive today if every student in America had signed, and lived up to, the pledge. Imagine how much happier parents would feel if they knew that their children would not be endangered as they tried to learn. It is clear that if the Senate’s support can convince more young people to sign the pledge, many will be given one more gun from coming to a school, then we have taken a step in the right direction.

The Senate must continue to be active in addressing crime in many ways. We must pass strong and effective anti-crime legislation that get criminals off the streets. And we should, through supporting legislation and by example, help parents spend more time with their children and get communities to reach out to those young people who are at risk of gun violence.

Reducing and ending youth violence will certainly not be easy. But by passing this resolution, we take an important step in the right direction. Let us join with teachers, administrators, parents, and others to work together to bring the Nation in working to empower our young people. Let us encourage all of our children to be active in reducing gun violence. By working together, we can make America safer and can secure a better future for all of our Nation’s youth.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to once again submit a resolution with my colleague from Washington, Senator MURRAY, to establish October 17, 2001, as the Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence.

We all remember the events in Conyers, GA, Littleton, CO, Pearl, MS, West Paducah, KY, Jonesboro, AR, and Springfield, OR. Neighborhoods in these areas have all been home to horrific school shootings. Youth gun violence, however, is not limited to these all too often incidences of school shootings. America has lost thousands of children in what has become the all-too-common violence of drive-by shootings, drug wars, and other crimes, as well as in self-inflicted and unintentional shootings.

While there is no simple solution as to how to stop youth violence, a Minnesota homemaker, Mary Lewis Grow, developed the idea of a Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence. I believe this idea is a step in the right direction, as do such groups as National School Boards Association, the National Association of Student Councils, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Parent Teacher Association, and the American Medical Association.

Simply put, this resolution will establish October 17, 2001, as the Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence. On this day, students in every school district in the Nation will be invited to voluntarily sign the “Student Pledge Against Gun Violence.” By signing the pledge, students promise that they will never take a gun to school, will never use a gun to settle a dispute, and will use their influence in a positive manner to prevent friends from using guns to settle disputes.

The Day of National Concern addresses the necessity of involving America’s youth in gun violence against young people. While adults may give advice and support, it is America’s youth that must make the final decision to not use a firearm to resolve conflict.

Just last year over 2 million young Americans signed the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence. Though this resolution is not the ultimate solution to preventing future tragedies, if it stops even one incident of youth gun violence, this resolution will be invaluable.

I urge all of my colleagues to join in this resolution to focus attention on gun violence among youth.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1585. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1416, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1586. Mr. THURMONT (for himself, Mr. LOTT, Mr. BOND, Mr. LAND, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. REID, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. DIWENE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BREAUX, Mr. DODD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BINGHAM, Ms. CARNABAN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. ENSH, Mr. HELMS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. LINCOLN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. TORRICELLI, and Ms. CANTWELL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1416, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1585. Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1416, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title VI, add the following:

SEC. 632. SBP ELIGIBILITY OF SURVIVORS OF RETIREMENT-INELIGIBLE MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES WHO DIE WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY.

(a) Surviving Spouse Annuity.—Section 1448(d) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) Surviving spouse annuity.—The Secretary shall pay an annuity under this subchapter to the surviving spouse of—

(A) a member who dies while on active duty after—

(i) becoming eligible to receive retired pay;

(ii) qualifying for retired pay except that the member has not applied for or been granted that pay; or

(iii) completing 20 years of active service but before the member is eligible to retire as a commissioned officer because the member has not completed 10 years of active commissioned service; or

(B) a member not described in subparagraph (A) who dies in line of duty while on active duty.

(b) Computation of Survivor Annuity.—Section 1451(c)(1) of title 10, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)—

(A) by striking “based upon his years of active service when he died,” and inserting “based upon the following”;

(B) by adding at the end the following new clauses:

(i) In the case of an annuity payable under section 1448(d) of this title by reason of the death of a member in line of duty, the