

H.R. 2944, and the Senate will proceed to its consideration. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2944) making appropriations for the government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate-reported language is adopted as the substitute.

(The amendment (No. 2106) is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted and Proposed.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, as has been agreed to, I am pleased to bring the District of Columbia appropriations bill to the floor with my colleague and partner, the Senator from Ohio, Mr. DEWINE. We will speak this afternoon as we bring this bill to the floor and then entertain any amendments which should be limited on this bill.

I say it is fine work the two of us have done with our committee members to try to reconcile some of the differences in this bill and to bring forward a bill we can support in a bipartisan fashion. I thank the Senator from Ohio for his great work and his diligence, particularly in some very important areas in this legislation that we lay out.

Also, I recognize the staff who has been very helpful to us in preparing this important piece of legislation. They will be with us in the Chamber today.

Mr. President, this total budget before us for the District of Columbia, our Nation's Capital, and one of the premier cities, if not the premier city in our Nation, is \$7.1 billion. I think it is important to note for the purposes of what we are going to be discussing this afternoon that \$5.3 billion of this money is raised through the local tax base, local levies, local ordinances governing tax collections and fees paid by the residents of the District and those tourists and citizens who visit the District.

We also have within this budget \$1.7 billion in Federal grants, which includes all of the Federal programs that all of our cities and States participate in so readily, not the least of which is Medicaid, which is a very familiar program to many.

In addition, the area that we have concentrated our work on mostly is the \$400 million included in this District of Columbia appropriations budget for criminal justice, prisons, and courts; under a recent statute the Federal Government has taken on the responsibility to hopefully do a better job—a system that was in some disarray with some unfortunate mismanagement, and to relieve the District of that financial responsibility, helping them to get

back on good financial footing. So that is the general outline of the moneys in this bill. I will come back to them in some detail.

In opening, let me say—and I know Senator DEWINE shares the same hope with me—we can lead in a new way with this bill, in a new time, a momentous time for our country and for the Nation's Capital since the unwarranted and unexpected and tragic attacks of September 11. Some of the terms that have been used to describe the relationships between Congress and the District have been old ones such as "partisanship" and "bickering," a battleground for competing ideologies that might have been better fought on a broader theater or on a broader battleground.

Sometimes I think our District has been treated as a national guinea pig instead of the Nation's Capital. I hope, as we bring the bill to the floor this year, we can use new words to describe this partnership—instead of "partisanship," "partnership"—words such as "trust" and "respect," respect for local decisionmaking, which I think is so important in this relationship with the District.

Instead of a battleground, I hope we can find common ground to build on some of the principles and issues that are important not only to the District but to our country.

I would like to think this bill represents a thrust toward economic vitality. The ranking member and I believe very strongly in job creation in the District, along with the Mayor and City Council, obviously, and we want to do what we can to make sure there is vitality.

In addition, words such as accountability, transparency, excellence in management, excellence in the education system, and investments in strengthening the health care system of the District are issues about which our committee feels very strongly.

I commend the work of the Mayor and the City Council, and so many others, particularly the Chief Financial Officer and others on the financial front who have helped to lead the District to a sound financial footing.

It is important to note that this is the first budget we will be considering as a Congress in 5 years that is post-control board. The control board that was in effect and helped bring the District back to relatively strong financial health, even in a time of crisis and challenge, came to an end on September 30. This is the first budget to come forward without the control board being in place.

As the control board has moved off the scene, what has moved front and center are the authorities and responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer. So many of the charges to keep the District in good financial stead will now lie with the Chief Financial Offi-

cer, and it is my hope that throughout this year and the coming years we will be able to strengthen that office and the systems within the DC government to make sure it is clear who is accountable for what and that there is transparency and accountability, because without strong finances the District will never be able to reach all of its many worthy goals, some of which I have just outlined.

I wanted to note that before I get into my prepared remarks.

The second principle that is embedded in this mark that I present is the elimination of some of the time-worn restrictions on the ways the District can spend some of its local funding. In our States, we all have cities and jurisdictions that want to be and should be autonomous in terms of the ordinances they propose and on what they choose to spend their money.

Too often, in my opinion, Congress has stepped in to try to micromanage, supersede, mandate, and attach too many strings to the way in which this city wanted to spend its own resources. Again, it is its own tax dollars spent by its own elected board. I have tried in appropriate ways to eliminate in this mark many of those riders or measures that were placed not because of the issues to which they pertain, but because of the principle.

I want this mark to suggest that we are entering an era, hopefully, of mutual respect and partnership, trust and respect of local decisionmaking. I would expect that for the city of New Orleans, for the city of Baton Rouge, and for the city of Lafayette. Senator DEWINE, I am sure, expects that for the city of Cleveland. We should have no less of a level of appreciation for the District of Columbia.

The third principle of this bill is a significant investment in child welfare. This has been one of the mayor's top priorities. It has been, I believe, the citizens' top priority as, unfortunately, 200 children in the last 10 years have lost their lives at the hands of people who supposedly love them, supposedly were caring for them. They have been murdered, tortured, and abused because the system in DC is not strong enough. This bill represents an extremely significant investment in that respect.

Counting what the city is putting up and what the Senator from Ohio and I have determined is an appropriate investment reaches almost \$40 million in new money to create and to strengthen the court system creating a new family court that will be complementary to this effort in hopes to correct this terrible situation and reverse this trend. I can state this is one of the best provisions in this bill.

In addition, particularly due to 9-11, the \$16 million for security investments for the District is to help the District establish better management

and security plans, and I will go into that in more detail.

The other principles are investments in education, the environment, and children's health. Investments are an important part of any growth plan for a city or for a State. We can tighten budgets, we can have fiscal discipline, we can try to keep those budgets in balance, but the smart money goes to those cities that are making long-term strategic investments.

We can never overinvest if we spend it wisely in education or the physical environment, such as bringing back the Anacostia River, the Navy Yard, which is an important developmental opportunity for the District, and in children's health, which Senator DEWINE has led.

To restate, the tragic events of September 11 have reminded us all of the safety, security, and financial strength of the District, our Nation's Capital, and how it serves as a vital symbol of our national resolve. This bill, as I said, serves the needs of the District's police, fire, public health, and emergency management services—the people who are on the front lines today, who were on the front lines on September 11, and who will be there when we have another attack. We hope we do not have another attack, but we are prepared for one and getting better prepared every day.

Given the strategic importance of maintaining stability in the Nation's Capital, the Appropriations Committee decided to maintain the original funding for the IMF conference that was canceled. Instead of canceling the funding, we reoriented that funding to be used for these important security needs.

In the days after the attack, local officials and the media began to detail some of the shortfalls in the present emergency protocol. Specifically, articles in the Washington Post highlighted the need for coordination and improvement. I thank Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SARBANES for their input on this subject, as well as Delegate NORTON, who is in the Chamber, along with the Mayor and others as we worked out a security plan that is robust, a security plan that has redundancy built into it, a security plan that will work for the residents of the District, for the thousands of people from the region who visit daily to work and enjoy the sites, and the millions of people who travel throughout the year to celebrate in the Nation's Capital.

I expect Mayor Williams and his staff to give attention to this real and immediate concern. I thank them for the work they are doing, and I look forward to working with them diligently in the months ahead.

Fiscal year 2002 will be an important year for the District. Overall, the District has moved from a negative accumulated fund balance of \$518 million in

fiscal year 1996 to a positive fund balance of \$464 million. That is almost a swing of \$1 billion in 5 years. That took a lot of hard work and a lot of dedication. There was a lot of anguish and a lot of disagreement about how that should happen, but it did happen. The District is in a positive financial posture due to a lot of hard work, and we want to keep it that way with appropriate mechanisms, even with the Control Board moving out of its area of responsibility. The city met all the requirements under the 1005 Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Act and is no longer under the general supervision of the Control Board.

The Chief Financial Officer will begin to fulfill many of the financial management functions previously performed by the board. The termination of several significant receiverships, particularly in child welfare, indicates a stronger, more effective, local government.

With each success, the District gains more independence. This bill maintains Congress' commitment to ensure that District officials have the tools they need to continue to serve DC and those who visit the capital.

While this is often a challenging role for the Federal Government to make, it is an important one. It is imperative Congress work with the city so the foundation of resources are in place to ensure this independence will result in success. To accomplish this, the Appropriations Committee has worked diligently to forge a partnership for progress between Congress and DC local elected leaders. Determined to be a supportive partner of the city's agenda, we have done our best to construct a Federal budget that supplements but not supplants the city's efforts to fulfill its promise to enrich the lives of the citizens in the District.

The bill before us is now evidence the committee shares the city's vision for quality education, a clean environment, improved child and family welfare, and continued financial strength. In each of these key areas, we have worked with local officials to determine the best course of action for all concerned.

Over the past 10 years, the District of Columbia has struggled to review and reform its child welfare system. I am certain my colleague from Ohio will speak in more detail about this because he has been such an extraordinary leader in this particular area.

First, under the guidance of a court-appointed receiver and now under the direction of a newly-appointed Child and Family Services Agency, this committee would be hard-pressed to find a greater priority than the well-being and safety of the children of the District. For this reason, as I said earlier, we have included a significant increase in the funding of a family court reform

effort, the Child and Family Services Agency, and Court-Appointed Special Advocates, CASA.

The ranking member and I believe strongly that investing more money without reforms, without accountability, without principles such as one family/one judge, without principles such as people should choose to do this job because they want to, not because they are forced to, that lawyers should take these cases because they want to, not because they are forced to, and the principles that volunteers in courtrooms looking out for the interests of the child will make a difference in that child's life and in that family's life, are crucial to the underpinnings of the reform.

I will be pleased to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle and in both Houses of Congress toward that end.

In addition, we have made note of the progress made by many DC public schools. In particular, the committee has included language and funding intended to serve as a catalyst for the ever-growing DC charter school movement. However, I am concerned about the current financial and management challenges of the schools and hope to work with the city on this front more specifically.

Let me say as an aside, before I get into my conclusion about schools, we all represent hundreds and thousands of schools in our own particular States and each one of us in our own way has worked with our mayors and our superintendents and our Governors to help reform and uplift and to build a stronger school system. In my mind, never has it been more important than in the post-September 11 attacks to think about what our school systems mean to our democracy.

Let me be as clear as I can possibly be on this subject. Pretty good is just not good enough. Schools that do all right is just not going to cut it or make it happen in the world that we face today. In these challenges, where it is important for us to understand our country well, to understand other countries well, other cultures and other religions, it is important for people to be well educated and well trained and well read and well versed on history and art and philosophy. It is important for our children to have the finest education.

Why? So they can become the kind of citizens that not only can govern in this Nation but literally lead the world. The world looks to America for leadership. They do not look necessarily to the elected officials of our country for leadership, although we are the voice of the people, but as the people of the United States that must lead. People can lead better when they are well educated and well prepared, well read about the actual character and conditions of this world.

I hope we really appreciate how important it is for not only the schools in the District of Columbia to work at a higher and more excellent level but how important it is for all of our schools. I am willing to take on some battles there because we have to think outside of the box, in a new way. We are going to do that in a bipartisan way, in an appropriate way, to help strengthen the schools for every child in this District, in our Nation's Capital, which is host to people from many places around the world, to provide a quality education, a wonderful education, not with just a pretty good teacher, not with a good teacher but with a great teacher, a well-motivated and well-trained teacher, to give children the kind of education in partnership with their parents, to provide that education for the children to create better schools, a stronger community, a stronger Nation and citizens that can truly lead the world in the decades ahead.

Finally, I am proud to say this bill includes funding to support education, public health, economic development projects. As the mayor and I have both said, a community with clean parks, beautiful waterways and safe streets is one in which people are proud to live. So if the schools are excellent, they serve as an economic catalyst for businesses that want to stay in the District and grow. When there are clean parks and places where children can play, when the waterways are clean enough to recreate and to swim in, and when the streets are safe, that is what makes a great community all the more great, and that is what our hope is for this District and for all of the cities that we represent in this great Nation.

I want to say particularly how impressed I am with the work of Mayor Williams, who has worked tirelessly on this and many other fronts. This is home for the Federal Government and its employees. It seems only right that we should do our fair share to see the District remains the beautiful place it is.

Amendments may be offered to this bill to restrict the District's ability to use its own locally collected tax revenues to operate specific programs hundreds of cities across this country operate. I hope those amendments will not be offered, but if they are, we will debate them with a limited time and move on so we can get this important bill passed and signed by the President.

In many parts of the country, some of these issues are controversial. Throughout the entire country, the issue of the direction of local funds is something that is universally, I believe, supported.

Let me conclude by thanking my ranking member and by saying I am proud to offer this mark, which puts the District in financial balance with a financial surplus, that outlines some of

the strong principles of education, investments in health and in the environment which will make this city even stronger. With the emphasis on security and investments we have made, I think this mark will serve this city well for the next many years and in the decades to come.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I thank Senator LANDRIEU for her comments but, more importantly, for the great work she has done over the last few months. It has been a great pleasure to work with the Senator from Louisiana. Her dedication to her job, her dedication to children in the District of Columbia, comes out every single day I meet with her and every time we talk about these issues. This bill is truly a reflection of that dedication.

Senator LANDRIEU and I have really been partners in our efforts to ensure that the children who come into contact with the court system in the District of Columbia are placed in a safe and a stable environment.

The bill before us today will go a long way toward ending the suffering of innocent children by providing resources to strengthen the District's family court system. Today, as Senator Landrieu has outlined, we are providing \$140.2 million for the DC court system, an increase of approximately \$35 million over last year's enacted level. The majority of these funds will be dedicated to improving the family courts so case workers can adequately address the individual needs of the children and the families who come into contact with the court system. These funds will help implement the reforms outlined in the family court bill that Senator LANDRIEU and I have introduced. These reforms will help the District hire, train, and equip additional staff and construct additional courtrooms.

It is not a question of money. That is why we have, as Senator LANDRIEU outlined and talked about a moment ago, introduced the family court bill, a bill I hope we will have within a short period of time for debate and for passage.

We are fulfilling today part of our commitment to the children of the District of Columbia. We need the reforms outlined in our DC family court bill, and we need the money contained in this bill to implement those reforms.

The family court bill we will take up later has a fundamental principle. And, that is that we have judges who, every single day, spend 100 percent of their time worrying about the children in the District of Columbia. "Family court" means exactly what the title indicates: The judges deal with family problems. They deal with children every single day. We need these judges to do this full time—we don't want

them to be spending their time on felony trials or other civil cases. We need them to develop the expertise in family law. Teachers tell me it takes 4 or 5 years before an eager new teacher becomes a seasoned, experienced, and excellent teacher. The same is true with a judge. Our bill provides that longevity, that experience, that training, to focus on our children.

Our family court bill also has the basic principle: One judge, one family—again, this is so the children are not moved from judge to judge to judge. There needs to be an institutional memory with that family. If that judge knows whom he is dealing with, knows what has happened in the past, that judge can better deal with that family. That is the family court bill. It is not before us today, but it will be before the Senate, we hope, in the next few weeks.

I don't have to remind anyone in this Chamber or anyone who reads the newspaper about what a mess the District of Columbia child welfare system has been and still is today. There are a lot of good people working very hard to change that. I believe we have to do our part. The bill before the Senate is a downpayment—a downpayment—on that job and that obligation.

Next, this bill contains \$147.3 million for the court services and offender supervision agency, an increase of \$34.7 million over last year's level. With these funds, the District will have the resources to provide drug treatment services to over 2,700 offenders in the District of Columbia criminal justice system, an increase in treatment slots of about 54 percent over last year. Initially, funds will be used to repair and renovate the District drug facilities. Some of the money will be used to hire additional drug treatment counselors.

This increase, which meets the President's request, is particularly important because 80 percent of the individuals in the District of Columbia criminal justice system have a substance abuse problem. This is not unique to the District of Columbia. I saw it when I was a county prosecuting attorney. I saw it when I was lieutenant governor in Ohio. One of my responsibilities was to oversee the Ohio criminal justice system. Roughly that 80 percent of the people in Ohio prisons and our jails had substance abuse problems. That is true for the District of Columbia, as well.

Spending money on treatment of people behind bars may not be the most popular thing to do, but it does make sense. It is cost effective. It is the right thing to do. The sad truth is we already pay to house, feed, and clothe the prisoners. Doesn't it make sense, while we have their attention, while they cannot leave, that we work to try to give them some drug treatment while they are in prison or jail? Almost every single prisoner will someday walk out the door and return to society. It makes good

sense to spend money for drug treatment. We do this and provide a significant increase in the funding of this bill.

Third, the bill includes \$16 million to provide security protection for those living and working in the District of Columbia. The September 11 Pentagon tragedy and the tragedy in New York and Pennsylvania clearly demonstrated the need in every district in this country to have an integrated emergency management system in place. It certainly demonstrated that need in the District of Columbia. This funding will pay for a coordinated emergency plan for the District of Columbia in national security situations including, of course, terrorist threats, protests, natural disasters, or other unanticipated events.

As a condition of receiving these funds, in this bill, we are requiring that the District develop and submit to Congress a comprehensive plan to improve security measures and procedures in the District of Columbia.

Fourth, the bill includes funding for the local Federal Police Mobile Wireless Interoperability Project to provide equipment to facilitate direct communication to between the D.C. Metropolitan Police, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Park Police, and the U.S. Capitol Police. We were pushing this prior to the September 11 attacks. The recent tragedy highlighted how important it is that the District's law enforcement teams are able to communicate effectively. It is important in every city in this country, but in this city we have a unique problem. Our unique problem is we have so many different agencies that have authority: The D.C. Metropolitan Police, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Park Police, and the U.S. Capitol Police. This effort will coincide with the integrated emergency planning to help enhance the District's overall response to security threats.

Briefly, I will mention three other important initiatives included in this bill. I am pleased the bill includes funds for the Green Door Mental Health Clinic to expand the facility. Our friend and colleague from New Mexico, Senator DOMENICI, has been a very strong advocate and supporter of this program. I thank him for his strong support and his dedication. The Green Door is a community program for people with severe and persistent mental illness. The Green Door program serves about 300 people. Of the people it serves, 70 percent are African American. Of those 300 people, about 75 percent are schizophrenic.

In a separate, but equally important provision of the bill, we have included funds to assist the D.C. Safe Kids Coalition to expand their permanent child safety seat fitting station programs. These stations are vital to help reduce motor vehicle-related deaths and inju-

ries—the leading cause of injury-related deaths among children age 14 and under. Funds will help the District distribute additional child safety seats to low-income families.

The Safe Kids Coalition is a group I worked with in Ohio. I have seen their great work in Ohio. I have seen their great work in the District of Columbia. I have seen it across our country. They are literally saving lives every single day. They are doing things that matter. The small amount of money we have included in this bill, I believe, will help them save the lives of children in the District of Columbia.

Finally, this bill provides funding to the Children's National Medical Center to help renovate its facilities, update its equipment, and provide private areas for families. Each year, the children's hospital in the District of Columbia provides care to approximately 200,000 infants, toddlers, youngsters, teenagers, from every State in the Union. Kids from all over the country are treated here. Kids travel here, their families travel here. This children's hospital really has a national focus.

The Center conducts Federal research for the National Institutes of Health and supports pediatric specialists who are nationally and world renowned. We are very fortunate to have the children's hospital here in the District of Columbia, the Children's National Medical Center. We do serve children, not just in the District, but throughout the world.

Anyone who has a child has probably at one time or the other taken that child to a children's hospital. My wife, Fran, and I have had that experience on several occasions. Each time we go into that setting as very apprehensive, worried parents, I can tell you it is a great relief to deal with professionals who know what they are doing, who know children are not just miniature adults, that they are different and they have to be dealt with differently. That is something with which I think we need to help the District of Columbia and help private agencies that are helping the National Children's Medical Center to improve its facilities, to improve its research to better help with our children. So we have provided money in this bill to do that.

Let me again thank my colleague, Senator LANDRIEU, for her great work. It has been a pleasure to work with her. As she has indicated, we do have maybe two or three amendments that we will, I think, dispose of tomorrow. I anticipate it will not take us very long to debate these issues. There were a couple of issues we just could not get resolved in the committee. They will be resolved within an hour or two tomorrow, and I hope we will then be able to move, by about mid-day, to final passage of this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, we will be open for amendments under the time agreement in just a few moments. I thought I would add a couple of closing remarks. We may have amendments presented tonight. We are anticipating probably those amendments will be presented in the morning.

I wanted, for the record, to also thank not only my distinguished colleague from Ohio and ranking member but also the other members of our committee for their fine work. I thank the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DICK DURBIN, the Senator from Texas, Mrs. HUTCHISON, and the Senator from Rhode Island, Mr. REED, for their work and dedication to helping us bring this bill to the floor, working on all these issues in great detail, conducting meetings, conducting phone conversations, conferences, meeting with House Members to resolve many of these issues and to work with the local officials in such a respectful, progressive, and forward-looking way.

I also thank my colleague and counterpart in the House, Congressman KNOLLENBERG from Michigan, for his fine work as a chair on the House side, and also the Congressman from Philadelphia, Mr. FATTAH, for his work on these important issues.

I want to mention a couple of important projects. Senator DEWINE mentioned a few. I see some other Senators are coming to the floor—Senator SESSIONS and others—but I would like to take a moment to mention a few other projects that are in this bill.

One is an investment of a half-million dollars that I think will help us begin to build up for the city—and with the partnership of the Federal Government and with the city government and related agencies and, most important, with the families of the District—a partnership to help us build and develop, over time, hopefully some of the finest recreation sports fields and facilities in the Nation.

As Senator DEWINE said, as a parent of eight children—I am a parent of two and actually am a soccer mom on weekends here in the District, and in Louisiana to some extent also—I am visiting and spending a lot of time with soccer moms and soccer dads. I played a little baseball in my day. I know, growing up in New Orleans, how important sports and athletics are to the development of our family. I watched how important that was for many other families. I think here in the District there are some wonderful opportunities of which we are not fully taking advantage.

I shared this with the mayor. He expressed not only his commitment but enthusiasm. The city council and its members and leaders in the city, expressed their enthusiasm for working with Congress in partnership to help create better opportunities for our children in every neighborhood and

every area of the city to participate in organized sports and to have opportunities for soccer fields, baseball diamonds, and basketball courts. In this particular bill we have a study to be conducted for possible locations—close, in this region—that could help us build the kind of facilities that are now available in jurisdictions just right outside of the District, in Maryland and Virginia.

Bond issues have been passed. Great corporate partnerships have come together. So if you live in Maryland or live in Virginia, the chances are on the weekend you can get to a soccer field that is actually well maintained and well manicured and kids and parents can have so much fun and enjoy the beautiful scenery and great opportunity that sports bring to teach children lessons and bring families together.

Unfortunately, we do not have those kinds of extensive facilities in the District. It is one of my goals to work with the many different organizations in the city, and the elected officials, to help build a foundation.

In addition, I understand the District itself would like to host the Olympics in 2012, which is a wonderful goal. It is going to be quite a challenge. Building these sports facilities is not only great for improving the quality of life and helping give children and families the kind of experience we all hope for in the communities in which we grow up, but it is also a great economic opportunity for the District to position itself as a potential contender for the Olympics. So I am very keen and very passionate and committed to this particular area.

In addition, I thank Senator DEWINE for his work with Children's Hospital and for the investments he has made in creating the children and family court system. Let me take a minute on that particular subject.

We hope every child in this country and the world will stay in the family to which they were born. I think it is what God intended. It is what we hope for and work for every day. But there are facts, tragedies, and circumstances where children cannot stay with their biological parents. There are some tragedies that have occurred in this District and in places around the Nation. We are hoping to build a bipartisan consensus in this country, and I might say in the world, on the simple notion that all children deserve a family to call their own. Children should not be raised in hospitals, left to grow up alone on the streets, to comfort themselves when they are sick, to put themselves in bed, and get themselves up in the morning at ages at which you could not believe they could be capable of doing that.

It is incumbent upon our Government, working with the private sector and nonprofit organizations, to make

sure every child has a family. We want them to stay with their biological families if at all possible; but if not, to not leave them alone or in a situation that is not permanent, and move them to adoption.

So investing in a new court system, starting up a family court, is a great step toward that goal of helping children to be connected to at least one loving, responsible adult.

I am proud to say that adoptions in the District are up, but we still have too many children in foster care.

I can't give this speech nearly as well as the mayor himself, who came out of foster care at the age of 4. He was basically declared to be mentally unfit at that age. His emotional capacity was questioned. His adoptive mother, Ms. Williams, gave a beautiful testimony. She said she looked at this child and could see something very special in his eyes and decided to take him into her family. She raised him, and the rest is history. He went on to a fine university and is now mayor of this great city.

I hope people can see hope in the mayor of this city, in him and his adoptive family, and what can happen when the system works well—to connect the child who needed a mother and father, a mother and father who wanted a child, and to see how this community and Nation will benefit when that system works.

This bill is committed to laying a foundation to help this system work for the District and hopefully serve as a model for the Nation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Ms. LANDRIEU. Yes, of course.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been listening to the Senator's opening remarks, and especially to what she just stated, and her humility. She can speak with great authority about adoption. The Senator and her husband, Frank, have two beautiful children, Mary Shannon and Connor. I remember going to her office, and Mary Shannon was there on the floor, having recently come into her life and all of ours.

I am sure that Mayor Williams can give a very dramatic speech. Senator LANDRIEU speaks from experience, and she speaks volumes. As chairman of the subcommittee, she is focusing on that which needed to be focused for a long time in the District of Columbia. I think that says a lot.

I want everyone within the sound of her voice to understand that she speaks about something which is not read in a book. They adopted two beautiful children. They are very happy and very fortunate children.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I thank the Senator. I appreciate those remarks. Frank and I are blessed. As adoptive parents, we can't believe that we are so blessed to have an opportunity to take children into our home. People think you are doing them a

great favor, but actually they do a great favor by just being the beautiful children that they are.

As the Senator said, I am an advocate because I have seen the benefit of not only adoptive children but as an adoptive family. I have seen the benefits of birth families and birth mothers who have made such a selfless decision. Given all of the desires expressed, and the needs of the parties, the least our government can do is to invest some money and some time to put in structure and accountability so these matches can be made. Our whole society benefits.

I am proud that this is in this bill.

I hope this bill will be the beginning of new investments in the District public school system, particularly giving more choices for parents in the District for charter schools, for magnet schools, and for more public school choice, by helping to return ownership of the schools to the communities and to the parents, by breaking down some of the systematic barriers that fight against excellence and greatness, which keeps us thinking that mediocrity is what we strive for when that is not the case. We strive for excellence. We strive for greatness in our schools. We have to keep pushing forward, thinking in different ways and helping us stabilize the middle class as it grows in the District, both black and white and people of all races. We cannot stabilize the middle class without an excellent school system. I want to work with members of local government to help do that.

I reserve the remainder of my time.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I rise to offer for the RECORD the Budget Committee's official scoring for S. 1543, the District of Columbia Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002.

The Senate bill provides \$408 million in discretionary budget authority, which will result in new outlays in 2002 of \$368 million. When outlays from prior-year budget authority are taken into account, discretionary outlays for the Senate bill total \$416 million in 2002. The Senate bill is at its section 302(b) allocation for both budget authority and outlays. The bill does not provide any emergency-designated funding. In addition, the bill approves the District government's budget for 2002, including granting it the authority to spend \$7.154 billion of local funds.

The Congress is far behind in passing the 13 regular appropriations bills for 2002. Much of this delay is the result of the extraordinary events of this year. I am hopeful that the bipartisan agreement reached between the President and congressional appropriations on the 2002 budget earlier this month will result in a quick completion of the 2002 appropriations. It is particularly important that the Senate act expeditiously to pass this bill, which not only provides a limited amount of federal

funding to the District, but also, through the enactment of its budget, allows the city to obligate and spend its own local revenues.

I ask unanimous consent that a table displaying the budget committee scoring of this bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1543, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002, SPENDING COMPARISONS—SENATE-REPORTED BILL
(In millions of dollars)

	General purpose	Mandatory	Total
Senate-reported bill:			
Budget Authority	408	0	408
Outlays	416	0	416
Senate 302(b) allocation:¹			
Budget Authority	408	0	408
Outlays	416	0	416
House-passed bill:			
Budget Authority	398	0	398
Outlays	408	0	408
President's request:			
Budget Authority	342	0	342
Outlays	362	0	362
SENATE-REPORTED BILL COMPARED TO:			
Senate 302(b) allocation:¹			
Budget Authority	0	0	0
Outlays	0	0	0
House-passed bill:			
Budget Authority	10	0	10
Outlays	8	0	8
President's request:			
Budget Authority	66	0	66
Outlays	54	0	54

¹ For enforcement purposes, the budget committee compares the Senate-reported bill to the Senate 302(b) allocation.

Notes.—Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Totals adjusted for consistency with scorekeeping conventions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the President. I express my appreciation for the good work of the Senator from Louisiana on the issues that she described. I appreciate her commitment to education and to the improvement of education.

THE NOMINATION OF KARON OWEN BOWDRE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, in just a few minutes we will be voting on a Federal judge nominee for the Federal District Court of the Northern District of Alabama, Karon Owen Bowdre. Senator SHELBY and I are pleased that President Bush chose to nominate her. Her nomination moved through the committee and will be up for a vote in just a few minutes.

Karon Bowdre is a first-rate judicial nominee. Karon Bowdre has been a student, a legal practitioner, and a professor of law. She graduated cum laude from the Cumberland School of Law, where she served as associate editor of the Cumberland Law Review. Cumberland may be the largest school in Alabama. It is an excellent law school.

After graduating from law school Mrs. Bowdre served as a law clerk for the Honorable J. Foy Guin, Jr. in the Federal District of Northern Alabama, the court to which she has been nomi-

nated. She is very familiar with the Federal district court, having clerked and practiced there.

Judge Guin, a wonderful Federal judge, has taken senior status. He was number one in his class at the University of Alabama School of Law. His father was an excellent practitioner. I had the honor of practicing in his law firm immediately after his going on the bench in Birmingham. Mrs. Bowdre has a good background. She clerked for the Federal judge in the very district that she will be serving. Prior to becoming a full-time professor, Mrs. Bowdre spent several years as associate and partner, practicing law at the well-respected law firm of Rives & Peterson in Birmingham, our State's largest city. Rives & Peterson is an outstanding firm and her serving as partner in that firm is proof of her legal ability.

During a substantial part of that practice, she litigated a number of cases in the Federal court system. For the last 11 years, Mrs. Bowdre has been teaching students about the rule of law. As a professor and director of the Legal Research and Writing Program at the Cumberland School of Law, she has authored numerous articles on insurance law and legal ethics. She has established a reputation as a professor who insists on quality work from students, and high ideals and high ethics.

In addition, she has been called to testify as a legal expert on insurance issues and has been involved in lecturing at Continuing Legal Education seminars.

Mrs. Bowdre knows how to deal with lawyers, with witnesses, and with parties. These experiences have no doubt prepared her for service on the Federal bench.

Her reputation as a lawyer and as a scholar has earned her broad support in the community. I would like to quote a letter submitted by perhaps one of the most successful plaintiff lawyers in Alabama, Jere Beasley. Even though Mrs. Bowdre, as an insurance defense attorney, was generally arguing the opposite position of Mr. Beasley, he had this to say on her behalf.

I have known Karon for a number of years and believe that she will be an outstanding U.S. District Judge. She will have wide acceptance from lawyers . . . regardless of whether they represent plaintiffs or defendants. While my practice is one that represents plaintiffs only, I am convinced that Karon will be fair and competent to all concerned and that is all that any lawyer should ask of a judge. She is highly qualified and, in my opinion, will do an outstanding job.

Her integrity, experience, and commitment to the rule of law are outstanding.

I commend Chairman LEAHY for placing her on the Senate Judiciary Committee agenda last month and for moving the nomination. I recommend her to my colleagues in the Senate without reservation.

I served for almost 15 years—12 years as U.S. Attorney and 2½ as Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Federal court. Those 15 years of practice full-time in Federal court gave me a basis to appreciate the value of a good Federal judge. When you go to court every day and you are there before a Federal judge who has a lifetime appointment, they can afford to be irritable, if they so choose, and there is nothing you can do about it. This knowledge makes you realize the importance of good Federal judges.

I am confident that Mrs. Bowdre will be the kind of judge that will serve the litigants and lawyers well that appear before her. Day after day and hour after hour she will give her best service to the country, and she will give her honest and best rulings in case after case that comes before her. You can't ask for more than that.

She has integrity, outstanding legal ability, and broad experience. She will be an outstanding Federal judge. I am honored to have submitted her name. I am confident she will be confirmed in a few minutes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. STABENOW). The Senator from North Dakota.

AVIATION SECURITY

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I congratulate the Senator from Louisiana and the ranking Senator from Ohio for their work on the District of Columbia Appropriations Act. I am pleased to support it, pleased as a member of the Appropriations Committee to support it.

I intend to support the judge my colleague from Alabama just described. That judge has a commendable record of public service. I am pleased to support the President's nomination.

I rise to comment about something that is not in the appropriations bill. Then I will speak on an amendment I intend to offer. First, on the issue of aviation security, I believe we are or probably have appointed conferees from the Commerce Committee on the issue of writing an aviation security bill in conference between the House and Senate. I will be one of those conferees.

It is a shame we have had to wait this long. We passed a bill dealing with aviation security 100-to-0 in the Senate. It wasn't a great controversy, just judging by the margin of the vote—100-to-0—people here believing that we needed to improve security of the country's airlines.

We need to give people a feeling of security that when they board an airplane their fellow passengers have been properly screened, that we have made certain there is not a risk that we are going to have additional hijackings. The airport security bill was very important. We passed it 100-to-0. The