

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT OF 2005

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today in support of S. 757, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2005.

This month marks the 21st year of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a campaign that provides a special opportunity to offer education about the important association between early detection and survival. National Breast Cancer Awareness month also salutes the more than 2,000,000 breast cancer survivors in the United States and the efforts of victims, volunteers, and professionals who combat breast cancer each day.

According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 40 and 55; and one out of every eight women who live to the age of 85 will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. But the disease is not limited by gender. In 2005, approximately 1,700 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed among men in the United States. In my home State of Utah, as indicated by the Utah Cancer Registry, breast cancer has the highest incidence rate of the ten leading cancer types. This disease has an impact on nearly every American's life.

Breast cancer death rates have been dropping steadily since 1991; however, challenges still remain. The bottom line is that we still do not know what causes this disease, or how to prevent it. Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors. There is general belief within the scientific community that the environment plays a role in the development of breast cancer, but the extent of that role has been less-examined.

Research has investigated the effect of isolated environmental factors such as diet, pesticides, and electromagnetic fields; but, in most cases, there has been no conclusive evidence. In-depth study of these potential risks could provide invaluable information in understanding the causes of breast cancer, and could lead to new prevention strategies. Clearly, more research needs to be done to determine the impact of environmental factors on breast cancer.

Along with Senators CHAFEE, REID, CLINTON, and TALENT, I have introduced S. 757, the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act of 2005, to address this palpable need for research. Specifically, the bill would authorize the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, NIEHS, to award grants for the development and operation of up to eight centers for the purpose of conducting research on environmental factors that may be related to breast cancer. This legislation is modeled after the highly successful and promising Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program, DOD BCRP, which operates under a competitive, peer-reviewed grant-making process that involves consumers.

Isolated studies have been conducted to look at suspected environmental links to breast cancer; but these studies are only a small step toward the broad strategic research that is required. What is needed is a collaborative, comprehensive, nationally focused strategy to address this oversight, a strategy like the one outlined in S. 757.

As this year's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month comes to a close, I urge my colleagues to support this important bill. This Federal commitment is critical for the overall, national strategy and the long-term investments required to discover the environmental causes of breast cancer so that we can prevent it, treat it more effectively, and, ultimately, cure it.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate passed S. Res. 282, which recognizes October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and establishes a sense of the Senate that the Congress should raise awareness of domestic violence in the United States and its impact on our Nation's families. I am thankful to the 32 co-sponsors of this resolution and to my colleagues for its unanimous passage.

We have made substantial progress in combating domestic violence since 1994 when we passed the Violence Against Women Act. Since the Act's passage, domestic violence has dropped by almost 50 percent. Incidents of rape are down by 60 percent. The number of women killed by an abusive husband or boyfriend is down by 22 percent and more than half of all rape victims are stepping forward to report the crime.

Despite this record of success, we still have so much more to do. According to the Department of Justice, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends every day. More than 2.5 million women are victims of violence each year and nearly one in three women experiences at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood. Reports also indicate that up to ten million children experience domestic violence in their homes each year, and nearly 8,800,000 children

in the United States witness domestic violence each year.

This is unacceptable. The impact this has on our Nation's families and on the fabric of our society as a whole is clear. What is lesser known is the impact that domestic violence has on our Nation's pocketbook. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently found that violence against women costs our country in excess of \$5.8 billion each year; \$4.1 billion of this is spent on direct medical and mental health care services. Since 1994, we have invested \$15.50 per woman to implement the Violence Against Women Act, but it is estimated that this investment has saved \$159 per woman, with a net overall savings of \$14.8 billion. I bring this up to remind my colleagues that even in this time of budget deficits, investing in programs to halt domestic violence is not only the right thing to do, but it ultimately saves money.

It is fitting that this year's National Domestic Violence Awareness Month is the month that the Senate passed the Violence Against Women Act of 2005. This bill will reauthorize critical components of the original act, and it will establish further protections for battered immigrants and victims of human trafficking in order to additionally combat domestic violence and sexual assault. The legislation takes the critical next steps to helping victims become safe, secure, and self-sufficient. I would like to point out that this bill had 57 co-sponsors and passed unanimously. This is in stark contrast to the original Act, which took many, many years to get passed. We have changed the paradigm on this issue and we have come a long way. But, we need to do more. The Violence Against Women Act of 2005 will help do this, and I look forward to the House-Senate conference on this bill and getting the bill passed into law.

In addition to the work that we are doing in the Senate, National Domestic Violence Awareness Month gives us a chance to acknowledge the hard work of so many individuals and groups that have tackled this issue head-on. These advocates talk the talk and they walk the walk. They help ensure a better life for so many battered women and children, and they remind Congress what is at stake and what remains to be done. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the advocates, lawyers, service providers, judges, police, nurses, shelter directors, and the many others who have dedicated their lives to this cause.

Again, I thank my colleagues for acting on this important resolution, and I look forward to working with them in the coming months and years to address the problem of domestic violence in our Nation.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate