

America out of foster care from 14,000 children a year out of 100,000 15 years ago, and from 500,000 to 700,000 in foster care currently. We have reduced the number of children in foster care which overall is very good but, most importantly, we have substantially increased the number of children adopted from 14,000 to 50,000 a year. So we are moving in the right direction, but we will not rest until we have placed every child with a responsible and loving family to call their own forever.

The sad news—and I have to unfortunately have a little sad point of this speech—is that internationally the numbers are going in the wrong direction. America used to adopt about 20,000 children a year from around the world. We are the largest receiving country on Earth. Americans feel strongly, Americans of all races and backgrounds and religious affiliations feel strongly that children should be raised in families. Americans have such open hearts and room in their hearts and in their homes for children and through many of our faith-based organizations have stepped up to adopt. Unfortunately, policies within our own executive branch of government and decisions that are being made are constricting the number of children who are eligible for adoption or who are being adopted by Americans, and that number has fallen dramatically, unfortunately, from about 20,000 children down to 9,000 children. I am going to redouble my efforts every year to find the problem areas and identify them, whether something has to be changed legislatively or whether some additional funding can be found to increase efforts not just by the Federal Government but States and local governments and nonprofits. We are going to turn the corner and accelerate this situation.

Let me conclude by showing some wonderful examples of families who have stepped up. First, this is the Morrison family. Fran is from Louisiana. She has fostered over 22 children. She is a professional. This is what she does in her professional life. She has fostered 22 children. But these five she has adopted out of the dozens of children whom she has fostered. This one little baby, the latest one whom she adopted, has a very special need. He was shaken as an infant. He was born completely healthy, but because an adult lost their temper and didn't know what to do—adults sometimes may shake infants because they are angry, because children cry when they are hungry or they are cold or they are tired, and sometimes adults don't like to hear that crying. Sometimes babies get shaken or thrown against walls, and that is what happened to this little child. This child is seriously disabled but has now been adopted by Fran Morrison, and she says she has been blessed. The Lord led her to become a foster parent and then, just one step at a time, she became an adoptive mom. As we can see, she has her hands very full, but she has

a great heart and she, similar to so many other Americans, is trying to make a way for these children and give them a place.

The next family is the Roberts family. Former foster youth Marchelle Roberts was one of my interns in my office just last year, so this is such a personal and touching story. She was a former participant in our foster youth intern program. Her parent is Lisa Roberts from Camden, NJ. She is adopted. Marchelle is now 22 years old and is attending Temple University studying broadcast journalism. Besides Marchelle, her mother has adopted four other children out of foster care. What an extraordinary family, built by a mom who just had a great heart, had the will and the opportunity to adopt these four beautiful girls, and they are now a wonderful family, truly loving the children to help them succeed in a world they were born into that had a very sad beginning but a very happy ending.

The third family I wish to share with my colleagues is the Johnson family. This is Senator THUNE's 2012 Angel. The parents are Ryan and Amber Johnson from Sioux Falls, SD. Two boys were adopted out of foster care. They have one biological child, a little girl. These two little boys were adopted out of foster care. What a beautiful family and what a way to build a family. That is what I am saying; that I wish we could eliminate every barrier. There are cultural barriers. There are financial barriers. There are legal barriers. If we could just eliminate those barriers and let Americans do what they do best, which is to love children, we would be a lot better off. So this is a beautiful family from Sioux Falls, SD.

Our next family is the Duhon family. The parents, Troy and Tracy Duhon, are from New Orleans. I know this family well and I am very proud of them. Their little adopted child Annahstasia Grace was born in China last year. They have three biological children, but they traveled to China just last month to pick up this little baby girl. They have waited for her for quite some time. We are very grateful that the Chinese Government has been cooperative. China is placing more children domestically, which is good, because many years ago they didn't have any process for domestic adoption. Of course, with their one-child policy, there were literally millions of children in orphanages, many little girls because they weren't as valued as little boys. But now that is changing. China is doing more domestic adoptions, but there are still children who need to have loving parents and many of them are finding them in the United States.

Then, finally, the last family is Jake and Amy Glover from Hays, KS. They have four adopted children, three from Haiti and one from China. What a cute holiday card this is going to be for all their friends who will receive it. Since adopting three children from Haiti, the Glovers are committed to raising

awareness about the many daily challenges faced by the Haitians postearthquake. So not only did these individuals turn out to be great parents for these children, but they also—I know because I talk to so many of them—help these children understand and appreciate and respect the culture from which they came, and it builds awareness in America about the greatness of our whole planet. Of course, we are proud of America, but there are many other countries where these children come from, and I know the adoptive parents are very respectful of the sending countries.

So on behalf of the children who are still waiting, I hope people who have heard this can respond in some way. There are many opportunities for people to reach out to our national organizations, nonprofits, churches in communities, and people can always go to our Web site and we have some additional information about how to connect if people are thinking about how to adopt or people who want to support the work of adoption and preservation of families such as these.

Again, I urge my colleagues to pass S. Res. 595 as quickly as possible. I thank those colleagues who have joined with me in cosponsoring this. We wish everybody a great day on Saturday for National Adoption Day, and we look forward to the continued work to promote laws and policies that help every child find a forever family.

Thank you. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. LANDRIEU. 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

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

RECOGNIZING CAMPBELLSVILLE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to salute Campbellsville University in Campbellsville, KY, for what is quite a long list of achievements they have received recently. Campbellsville athletics has taken the country by storm. Recently, four Campbellsville students won national championships in track and field, and the Campbellsville men's tennis team won a national championship. A school would be proud of having any one of these winning student-athletes as part of its number—for Campbellsville University to have them all is quite a feat.