

emergency phone number is 1-800-462-9029. I say that in case we have any Californians who need to hear that number. The reason that number is important is, if you have damage, you call there and you are eligible for short-term emergency assistance, such as transportation and housing, and longer term registration if you need a loan up to \$200,000, if your home has been lost and its value is that high.

The loans are made to people who cannot qualify at banks, and the interest rate will be about 4 percent. If you can qualify at a bank, the interest rate will be about 8 percent. I want to thank the Clinton administration for acting so swiftly. James Lee Witt, the Director of FEMA, unfortunately, has become a familiar figure in our State. He is an extraordinary man. He happened to be there during this disaster and has remained there. We are getting ready for what is to come. I urge my colleagues to please help us as we would help you in a similar situation, indeed as we have helped you in a similar situation.

#### UNFUNDED MANDATES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we are debating the unfunded mandates bill. I voted it out of the Budget Committee. I am very much in agreement with the thrust of the bill. I served in local government and we had some mandates I never could understand.

So I am very hopeful that the bill, in its final form, will be good for my State of California. And I want to make it clear, if I think it is good for the people of my State, I will be very proud to vote for the bill. But if I see that the bill takes some twists and turns and ignores, for example, the biggest unfunded mandate we face, which is services to illegal immigrants, then I am going to have a lot of trouble voting for the bill. Therefore, I look forward to the debate.

We know that this bill on the issue of unfunded mandates will make a big difference in the way we fund State and local government. But no matter how fast or slowly we move this bill—and there is a push to move this bill fast because it is in the Contract With America and therefore there is a push to move it fast—there is something that is happening right now that we have to address.

#### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE CLINIC VIOLENCE

Mrs. BOXER. The unfunded mandates bill will have an impact way down the road, maybe a year or more out. But I want to talk about a problem that is happening now. We have reproductive health care clinics all across this great land and right now we have some very brave people working in those reproductive health care clinics.

Why do I say "brave?" I do not think any of us could know the feeling that some of these folks have when they

leave their house: Will there be a stalker standing outside their house as they go to work to do a legal, legitimate job that helps many people? Do they have to wear a bulletproof vest—many doctors do—and will that vest be enough to save their lives?

Mr. President, this is a very, very, serious issue. And it has nothing to do with how one views the issue of reproductive rights. I happen to be someone who believes in the right to choose, a constitutionally guaranteed right, and until it is outlawed or changed it will remain so.

I introduced a resolution. My two prime sponsors are here, Senator FEINGOLD and Senator MURRAY; and another very important sponsor, OLYMPIA SNOWE, Senator SNOWE, is from the other side of the aisle. We have been pushing to get a vote on this resolution because, while we debate unfunded mandates that will take effect years into the future, right now, this minute, people feel like sitting ducks in clinics in rural and urban communities across this country. That is wrong.

We passed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. That bill says that it is a crime to injure or to harm anyone because they happen to work or volunteer at a clinic. There are approximately 900 clinics in the United States providing reproductive health services. But the violence continues every day. We have seen the brutal shootings of innocent people in Massachusetts and the shooting at a health care clinic in Virginia. Organizations monitoring this violence have recorded over 130 incidents of violence or harassment last year.

I have a bill. We are trying to get that bill brought up as a freestanding bill. It is a sense-of-the-Senate resolution and it calls on the Attorney General to fully enforce the law and take any further necessary measures to protect persons seeking to provide or obtain, or assist in providing or obtaining, reproductive health services from violent attack. There should be no argument about this.

I hope that the majority will clear this bill. We have been working to get it cleared on a bipartisan basis for the last 3 days. One day, "Oh, yes, it is going to be cleared"; the next day, "Oh, it is going to be cleared."

Everyone on our side has no objection. We need to send a signal to the people who work in these clinics that we care. President Clinton sent a directive to the Attorney General. She is working on this problem. We need to add our voice. This is not a criticism of the Attorney General. It is a push to make sure that President Clinton's directive is carried out.

I hope, by the end of this day, we will have this bill before the U.S. Senate for a vote and we will add our voice.

I yield at this time to my colleague and friend, Senator FEINGOLD.

Mr. FEINGOLD addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise very briefly to praise and thank the Senator from California for her leadership on this issue. I am very, very pleased to be a cosponsor of the resolution and the amendment which is very straightforward.

I appreciate the language. It expresses the sense of the Senate that the Attorney General should take strong action to protect reproductive health care clinics.

There is really nothing else to be said, other than that the Senate should pass the resolution authored by the Senator from California. This must be done immediately, and if this Federal Government does not express that view, it is a sign of a Government that no longer can really protect the people of this country.

I think that this demands swift action in this body. There are many issues that can be disputed; some obviously should be ones we ought to take a lot of time on. I think we have a couple of them right now. The unfunded mandates bill is very complicated; the balanced budget amendment, amending the Constitution. These require the deliberative skills of the U.S. Senate, but this does not.

I cannot believe there is any Member of this body on either side of the aisles who believes the Federal Government should do anything but be very aggressive in stopping this violence. Just this past August, during debate over the VA-HUD appropriations bill, Senator LAUTENBERG offered, and I cosponsored, a similar amendment in the wake of the shooting of a clinic doctor and his escort in Pensacola, FL. However, at that time as now, I believe that the resolve of the Senate in the matter of clinic violence is clear. Ninety-eight Members of the Senate voted to condemn the shootings in Pensacola last August, and indeed, to condemn the use of deadly force as a means of protest. That is why I ask all of my colleagues to show their strong and united support today and lift any objections to the unanimous consent that this item come up at this time.

There are two reasons that I would like to add. The first is that the type of violence that is involved in these incidents is not truly random violence. It is random, perhaps, as to where it occurs and at what time, but it is not just one troubled individual for whatever personal reason who decides they want to kill somebody. This is the type of violence that is driven by an organized effort to deprive people of their reproductive rights and to intimidate them from exercising those rights. That is very different. The tactics of some individuals who oppose abortion access have escalated. As Ellen Goodman, a syndicated columnist who lives in Boston said in her column, the literal "line of fire" is coming closer to home. She writes, "First doctors, then escorts, now receptionists. First Wichita, then Pensacola, now Brookline."