

it impose strong sanction to any and all violations. This did not happen when Iraq used chemical weapons in the mid-1980's and later in the decade. Diplomats met in 1989 to address the gassing of the Kurds and, faced with incontrovertible proof of an abrogation of the Geneva Protocol, did not sanction Iraq. Many experts believe that the most productive measure to counteract chemical weapons is to develop meaningful international sanctions that could be added to the Geneva Protocol to give it teeth. Had a Geneva Protocol enforcement mechanism been in place and acted upon when Iraq first used its CW arsenal, Iraq's further refinement of a chemical war-fighting capability may have been slowed or even halted before Saddam threatened U.S. soldiers with these same weapons during the gulf war.

This approach offers a significant advantage: it would resolve the verification issue. It is relatively easy to detect use as opposed to possession. It is likely that a nation on the receiving end of a chemical attack would welcome international inspectors to confirm that a violation has occurred and to garner worldwide condemnation of the perpetrator. The second advantage is that, as I earlier indicated, several of the nations we are most worried about—that have not ratified the CWC—have already ratified the Geneva Protocol. I am speaking of Cuba, Iraq, North Korea, and the former Soviet Union.

PRESSING RUSSIA TO UPHOLD ITS EXISTING COMMITMENTS

In addition, the United States must make a high priority holding Russia to its commitments under the 1989 memorandum of understanding and the 1990 bilateral agreement to destroy chemical weapons. The current administration has not been forceful in making clear we expect compliance. Progress made between the two countries on this issue need not be wasted, if we really mean to do something about chemical warfare.

IMPLEMENTING THE CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS THREAT REDUCTION ACT (S. 495)

Finally, there are additional steps we can, and should, take. The Senate passed on March 20 the Chemical and Biological Weapons Threat Reduction Act (S. 495). This legislation provides a comprehensive package of domestic and international measures aimed at reducing chemical, as well as biological, weapons threats to the United States, its citizens, its armed forces and those of our allies. It sets forth practical and realistic steps to achieve this objective.

The act fills important gaps in U.S. law by outlawing the entire range of chemical and biological weapons activities. Quite remarkably, the possession of chemical weapons is not today a criminal offense. S. 495 corrects that untenable situation, and sets out still criminal, civil, and other penalties the spectrum of chemical and biological weapons related activities.

The act will also strengthen and reinforce deterrence against the use of chemical and biological weapons. Strong controls on trade in these weapons, as called for in the legislation, will make it more difficult and raise the costs for rogue nations to acquire offensive chemical and biological weapons capabilities. Improvements in U.S. and allied chemical and biological defenses, also mandated by the act, will serve to devalue the potential political and military utility of these weapons by would-be opponents. And the requirement that tough sanctions be imposed against any nation that uses poison gas should reduce the chance that such weapons would be used in the first place.

S. 495 recognizes that we can't go it alone when it comes to dealing with chemical and biological weapons threats. True, some things we can and should do on a unilateral basis. But sensible international action, focused on concrete and achievable measures, must likewise be an essential component of our strategy. The legislation encourages our allies and potential coalition partners to match our efforts and improve their military capabilities against chemical and biological weapons. The legislation also seeks multilateral agreement on enforcement mechanisms for the 1925 Geneva Protocol.

The Chemical and Biological Weapons Threat Reduction Act thus provides a sensible and effective plan that CWC critics and proponents alike should support. By enacting and implementing the act, the United States will lead by example, and will underscore its commitment to bringing together like-minded friends and allies to make unthinkable the resort to chemical or biological weapons.

CONCLUSION

Arms-control treaties, at the end of the day, are not a substitute for defense preparedness. A treaty as flawed as the Chemical Weapons Convention is worth less to our country than the unilateral actions the United States can and must take to ensure the protection and the survival of its citizens. The entry into force of the CWC—with or without American participation—will not bring us a world in which these terrible weapons are no longer manufactured or stockpiled. Nor can we say they will never be used. When words, diplomacy, and international documents signed with the best of intentions fail to protect populations from the threat of attack with these inhuman weapons, every nation falls back upon its ability to preempt or repel such an attack. It would be irresponsible to let down our guard in this respect, for history has shown us that treaties—even well-crafted ones—cannot replace the political and military will that are necessary to oppose acts of aggression.●

IN MEMORY OF OWEN WILLIAMS

● Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, too often, it seems good deeds and public service go unrecognized while it is precisely the proprietors of these acts who hold our communities together. I would like to take a moment to recognize one of these proprietors who I call unsung heroes. On Saturday, March 1 of this year, a dear friend and colleague of mine, Owen Williams, and his son, Alfredo, were tragically killed by a drunk driver in my home State of Georgia.

Owen was a true hero in my eyes—bright, devout, and committed to his wife Carolyn and eight children. A former Vietnam combat veteran, Owen was dedicated to his community, his country, and his God.

When I issued a call to action for Georgians to help reduce the rising tide of teen drug use, Owen was one of the first to answer. He served in a volunteer capacity as chairman of the Bibb County Operation Drug Free Georgia Committee and was making great strides in his community with the program.

This Saturday, at our second annual statewide drug summit, which is dedicated to the memory of Owen and Alfredo, I will present the First American Hero Award to Owen's family for the great contributions he made to those around him. It has been said that the mark of a great man is that his deeds touch the lives of others even after he is gone. I know this will be true of Owen. This is a tragic loss, particularly for me, but the work that Owen has done will continue to serve as an inspiration to us all.●

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROVIDES SECURITY (CHIPS) ACT

● Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, yesterday I introduced S. 674 along with Senator ROCKEFELLER and others. I ask that the text of bill S. 674 be printed in the RECORD.

The text of the bill follows:

S. 674

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Children's Health Insurance Provides Security (CHIPS) Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. ENCOURAGING STATES THROUGH INCREASED FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE (FMAP) TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE OF CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN.

(a) INCREASED FMAP FOR MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—Section 1905 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Notwithstanding the first sentence of this subsection, in the case of a State plan that meets the conditions described in subsection (t)(1), with respect to expenditures for medical assistance for individuals within an optional coverage group (as defined in subsection (t)(2)) the Federal medical assistance percentage is equal to the enhanced medical assistance