

Whereas in January 1997, reproductive health services clinics in Atlanta, Georgia and Tulsa, Oklahoma were bombed, resulting in several injuries;

Whereas in December 1994, 2 workers at a reproductive health services clinic were murdered and 5 others injured in an assault in Brookline, Massachusetts;

Whereas in July 1994, an abortion provider and his security escort were murdered in Pensacola, Florida;

Whereas in March 1993, a doctor providing abortion services was shot and killed in Pensacola, Florida;

Whereas Congress passed and the President signed the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act of 1994, a law establishing Federal criminal penalties and civil remedies for certain violent, threatening, obstructive, and destructive conduct that is intended to injure, intimidate, or interfere with persons seeking to obtain or provide reproductive health services, and for intentionally damaging or destroying, or attempting to damage or destroy, the property of a clinic because the clinic provides reproductive health services;

Whereas violence is not a mode of free speech, is not entitled to constitutional protection, and should not be condoned as a method of expressing an opinion; and

Whereas on January 2, 1995, the President instructed the Attorney General to direct—

(1) the United States Attorneys to create task forces of Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials to develop plans to address security for reproductive health services clinics located within their jurisdictions; and

(2) the United States Marshals Service to ensure coordination between reproductive health services clinics and Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials regarding potential threats of violence: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that the Attorney General should—

(1) fully enforce the law and protect from violent attack persons seeking to provide or obtain, or assist in providing or obtaining, reproductive health services; and

(2) allocate the resources needed to accomplish the mission of the Department of Justice, including the protection of reproductive health services clinics, as described in the instruction of the President on January 2, 1995.

SEC. 2. EXPRESSIVE CONDUCT.

Nothing in this resolution shall be construed to prohibit any expressive conduct (including peaceful picketing or other peaceful demonstration) protected from legal prohibition by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution condemning last week's tragic bombing of a reproductive health services clinic in Birmingham, Alabama. This vicious and unprovoked attack killed a police officer and critically injured a clinic worker.

Last week's attack was the first clinic bombing in the United States to cause a fatality, but unfortunately, it was far from the first bombing. In recent years, reproductive health services clinics have been the targets of an unprecedented terror campaign. Last year alone, clinics in Atlanta, Georgia and Tulsa, Oklahoma were bombed, resulting in many serious injuries.

This reign of terror began with the murder of Dr. David Gunn in Pensa-

cola, Florida in 1993. A second abortion provider and his security guard were shot and killed the following year in Florida. And on the bloodiest day of the anti-choice terror campaign, two clinic workers were killed and five injured in vicious, cold-blooded shootings in Brookline, Massachusetts.

All told, over 1,800 violent attacks have been reported at reproductive health services clinics in recent years. I hope my colleagues are aware that the attacks and the level of violence in those attacks are increasing every year.

Reproductive choice is a contentious issue. I know that many of my colleagues feel very strongly that abortion should be outlawed in America, and although I strongly disagree, I respect their views and I hope they respect mine. But this resolution is not about choice; it is about violence. I know that not a single one of my colleagues believes that murder, bombing, terror and acts of intimidation are appropriate ways to express political views.

These bombings are a part of a terrorist campaign—a campaign designed to destroy a woman's right to choose through violence. The United States Senate must condemn these attacks as strongly and unequivocally as we condemn other acts of terrorism—both here and around the world.

In addition to condemning the attack, this resolution expresses the Sense of the Senate that the Attorney General should fully enforce existing laws to protect the rights of American women seeking care at reproductive health services clinics.

I am proud to be joined in this effort by a distinguished, bipartisan group of Senators. I hope the Senate can move quickly on this resolution and pass it as early as today.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, 1998, in open session, to receive testimony on the defense authorization request for fiscal year 1999 and the future years defense program.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Finance Committee requests unanimous consent to conduct a hearing on Thursday, February 5, 1998 beginning at 10 a.m. in room 215 Dirksen.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the full Committee on Environment and Public Works be granted permission to con-

duct a business meeting to consider the nominations of Donald J. Barry, nominated by the President to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, Department of the Interior, and Sallyanne Harper, nominated by the President to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency, Thursday, February 5, immediately following the first Senate vote in the President's room (S-216).

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

WILLIAM T. FRAIN JR., GREATER MANCHESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate William T. Frain Jr., a distinguished individual, for being named Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year for 1997. I commend his consistent drive and aggressive encouragement to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens.

William has held many officer roles as well as been a member of many organizations. To name a few, he has been involved in the Board of Directors of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, New Hampshire Business Committee for the Arts, and New Hampshire Better Business Bureau. He also devotes a great deal of time to civic and charitable endeavors including the Eastern Seal Society, Junior Achievement, The Humanities Council and Bishop of Manchester's Summer Reception Fund Committee. These are just a few organizations with which he has spent countless hours and dedicated service. This impressive list goes on and he should be very proud of these contributions.

William has enthusiastically worked with more than twenty organizations, countless residents and employees, and developed a considerable portfolio of citizenship. Four words come to mind that best represent what William is trying to strengthen: community, teamwork, partnership, and development. These are terms that bind all Americans together and strengthen the unity of this great country.

These words best exhibit the tools he employs to bring about positive change and as a leader, encouraging others to rise to the calling of citizenship. Yet, William is not just a great citizen, but a defender of companionship and a visionary of better communities.

William's commitment to each organization he represents is extremely solid and substantial. He gives it his all and inspires others to follow his lead. His actions and beliefs have become a catalyst for significant change resulting in profound achievements. Mr. President, I want to congratulate William for his outstanding work and I am proud to represent him in the U.S. Senate. ●

VERMONT OLYMPIANS

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor the twenty-two Vermonters who will be representing our country this week at the XVIIIth Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Perhaps Chris Graff of the Associated Press said it best when he noted in an article that appeared in the Rutland Herald that Vermont produces more than its share of Olympians, “. . . a fact that should surprise no one. There is something about Vermonters and the Vermont spirit that is so keenly associated with the Olympic spirit.” Maybe it is the mix of severe weather, Yankee stubbornness, and that New England work ethic that instills in Vermonters an appreciation for hard work and perseverance.

Representing Vermont on the U.S. Men's Ice Hockey Team is the now famous John LeClair from St. Albans. LeClair may play professional hockey for the Philadelphia Flyers, but he has never forgotten his roots in the small city of St. Albans. John donates his time and expertise to the people of Franklin County throughout the year. His skill and All-American image have brought civility and a touch of New England neighborliness to the most unlikely of sports. For the first time ever, the National Hockey League is competing in the Olympics. Vermonters are rooting for John LeClair to leave a lasting impression.

If there is one thing Vermonters excel at it is getting through snow, so it makes sense that Vermont is well represented on the U.S. Olympic Cross Country Ski Teams. Four Vermonters will be on the team; Marc Gilbertson and Laura Wilson of Montpelier, Kerrin Petty from Townshend, and Suzanne King of East Warren. This is Marc's first time as a member of a U.S. national team and I admire his grit in going after his Olympic dream. Laura, Kerrin and Suzanne will bring experience to the women's team and are aiming to show the world what Vermont women are made of.

The Nordic Combined event has Norwich native Tim Tetreault competing. Tim's parents Tom and Anne will be going to Japan this week to watch their son, who has been skiing since he was five, compete in his third Olympic games. The Freestyle U.S. Ski teams also include four skiers and a head coach from Vermont. Ann Battelle from Williston got hooked on skiing during her years at Champlain Valley Union High School and has never looked back. Jim Moran of Stowe and Evan Dybvig of Turnbridge who have both spent many cold hours conquering the slopes of Stowe, will also be competing. Donna Weinbrecht, another team member, knows well all the steep trails and sharp twists at Killington mountain. The four will be joined by coach Jeff Good from Williston.

Skiing comes naturally for Vermonters, but add a rifle and you have a sport Vermonters can really get behind! Seven Vermonters will be doing

just that on the U.S. Biathlon teams—Dan Westover from Colchester, Robert Rosser of Underhill, Kristina Viljanen-Sabasteanski of Richmond, Deborah Nordyke from Jericho, Kara Salmela of Bolton Valley, Algis Shalna (head coach) from Williston, and Timothy Derrick (assistant Coach) of Jericho. Head Coach Shalna brings with him Olympic experience having competed for the Soviet Union's Gold Medal winning team in the 1984 Winter Olympics. The group has been training at a state-of-the-art Vermont National Guard facility in Jericho—which will be hosting the World Junior Biathlon Championships just after the Olympics.

New to the Olympics but familiar to Vermont is snowboarding. As the birth place of this sport and home to Jake Burton's renowned snowboard company, it is appropriate that Vermont will be sending three talented competitors as part of the first U.S. Snowboarding Team. Ross Powers from South Londonderry, Ron Chiodi of Rochester, and Betsy Shaw of East Dorset will be traveling to Nagano this week. Ross knows all about travel since snowboarding has taken him all over the world. He will celebrate his nineteenth birthday on February 10th and be joined by his mother, Nancy, in Japan. East Dorset will be cheering for their neighbor, Betsy, who has “surfed” mountains all over the globe but knows the ones in Southern Vermont best. Ron too will bring his Vermont experience at Stratton Mountain with him to the Olympics.

Also going to Nagano, Japan is Vermont'er Kathryn Vigensna Lipke of Belvidere. She will be serving as one of five international jurors who will judge the snow-sculpting competitions. Having lived in the mountains of Belvidere with its snowy peaks and dense woods, Kathryn will make an excellent judge of cold weather beauty.

I am truly proud of the athletes Vermont is sending to the Olympics. I commend them for their hard work and the example they set for Vermonters and for athletes everywhere, and join all Vermonters in wishing them the best in the 1998 Winter Olympics.●

PROTECTION OF THE AMERICAN FLAG FROM PHYSICAL DESECRATION

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I am proud to join Senators HATCH, CLELAND, and others in cosponsoring the proposed constitutional amendment to grant the States and Congress the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. Our flag occupies a truly unique place in the hearts of millions of citizens as a cherished symbol of freedom and democracy. As a national emblem of the world's greatest democracy, the American flag should be treated with respect and care. I have long held that our free speech rights do not entitle us to consider the flag as merely personal property, to be treated

any way we see fit, including its desecration for the purpose of political protest. I want to commend Senator HATCH for once again leading us in this very worthwhile cause.

Mr. President, with the introduction of this resolution, we resume our effort to protect the greatest symbol of the American experience. There is no more powerful symbol of freedom, democracy, and our commitment to those principles that the American flag, and it is altogether just that we try to ensure that it is publicly displayed with pride, dignity, and honor. Make no mistake, Mr. President, the flag is not merely a visual symbol to us, nor should it be. Too many Americans have contributed too much of their labor, their passion, and in some cases their very being for it to be so simply regarded. For the flag permeates our national history and relays the story of America in its simplest terms. Indeed, knowing how the flag has changed—and in what ways it has remained constant—is to know the history and hopes of this country.

More than 220 years ago, a year after the colonies had made their historic decision to declare independence from Britain, the Second Continental Congress decided that the American flag would consist of 13 red and white alternating stripes and 13 white stars in a field of blue. These stars and blue field were to represent a new constellation in which freedom and government of the people, by the people and for the people would rule. As we all know, the constellation has grown to include 50 stars, but the number of stripes has remained constant. In this way, the flag tells all who view it that no matter how large America may become, it is forever rooted in the bedrock principles of freedom and self-government that led those first 13 colonies to forge a new nation.

Equally important is the fact that the flag also represents our commitment to these ideals. This commitment has exacted a high human toll, for which many of America's best and brightest have given their last full measure of devotion. It is in their memories and for their commitment to America's ideals that I am proud to support the amendment introduced yesterday.

The amendment is necessary because the Supreme Court, in its 1990 U.S. verses Eichman ruling, held that burning the flag in political protest was constitutionally protected free speech. No one holds our right to free speech more dearly than I do, Mr. President, but in my view, the Eichman decision unnecessarily rejects the deeply held reverence in which millions of Americans hold our flag. With all the forums for public opinion available to Americans every day, from television and radio, to newspapers and internet chat rooms, Americans are afforded ample opportunity to freely and fully exercise their legitimate, constitutional right to free speech, even if what they have