

much. This concludes the National Prayer Breakfast. (Applause.)

#### CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

• Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I became an official cosponsor of S. 1645, the Child Custody Protection Act introduced by Senator ABRAHAM. This bill addresses a very critical problem impacting our nation's families and their children, abortion. Under this bill, adults who take children across state lines to receive an abortion without the knowledge of their parents would be committing a federal offense.

Currently, 22 states require parental notification if a minor is going to receive an abortion. Yet, each and every day adults help thousands of children travel across state lines to receive abortions in states which do not require the notification of a parent.

Being an ardent opponent of abortion, I am gravely concerned about the children who are being taken by adults, who are not their parents, into different states to receive abortions. This process is wrong and must be stopped. We cannot allow adults to circumvent state laws by transporting a minor across state lines for an abortion without parental consent and involvement.

The decision to have an abortion is a critical decision, one which I personally hope that women of all ages would elect not to have. However, despite an individual's personal opinion on abortion, the majority of Americans, myself included, believe it is imperative for minor children to involve their parents in this life altering decision. According to a 1996 Gallup poll, 74 percent of Americans supported requiring minors to get parental consent for an abortion. According to the Supreme Court, "the medical, emotional, and psychological consequences of an abortion are serious and can be lasting; this is particularly so when the patient is immature." Clearly, our nation's children should not be kept from their parents when making an important life decision with such broad ramifications as an abortion.

This is why I am cosponsoring Senator ABRAHAM's bill, the "Child Custody Protection Act." This bill would make it a federal offense to transport a minor across state lines with intent to avoid state laws requiring parental involvement in a minor's abortion.

It is my firm belief that we must pass this law and stop people from bypassing the laws of our individual states. This legislation protects our children from making a life altering decision without the guidance of their most trusted advisors, their parents.●

#### TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL ORDER OF WOMEN LEGISLATORS

• Mr. CLELAND. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate and commend the National Order of Women Legislators and the Georgia Chapter of the National Order of Women Legislators as

they celebrate today 60 years of accomplishments since the organization was founded in 1938.

This year also marks the 150th Anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention ever held to discuss the prohibitions then in force on women voting, holding public office, owning property, signing official documents, and receiving a formal education.

The women who have served in the National Order of Women Legislators and the Georgia Chapter of that organization have overcome gender barriers and are true champions of the women's rights movement. I applaud these women for fighting for and delivering to the women of this nation the right to vote, and a vital voice in local, state and national government.

The Declaration of Sentiments issued by the 1848 convention held in Seneca Falls, New York, launched a movement that unleashed and enhanced the myriad of talents and intellectual abilities already possessed by women throughout the United States. The resulting Women's Rights Movement has had a profound and undeniable impact on all aspects of American life, and has opened new and well deserved opportunities for women.

I would especially like to commend the spirit and hard work of Rebecca Latimer Felton, the first Georgia woman elected to the United States Senate in 1922, two years after women gained the right to vote; Florence Reville Gibbs, the first Georgia woman to serve in the United States House of Representatives (1940-1941); Viola Ross Napier, the first woman to serve in the Georgia House of Representatives (1923-1926); Susie Tilman Moore, the first woman to serve in the Georgia State Senate (1933-1934 and 1939-1940); and Grace Towns Hamilton, the first African American woman elected to the Georgia House of Representatives (1966-1984).

I am honored to serve in the United States Senate with nine remarkable female Senators—Sens. BARBARA BOXER (D-CA), SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME), DIANNE FEINSTEIN (D-CA), KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON (R-TX), MARY LANDRIEU (D-LA), BARBARA MIKULSKI (D-MD), CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN (D-IL), PATTY MURRAY (D-WA), and OLYMPIA SNOWE (R-ME). I also commend the 55 female members of the U.S. House of Representatives and female members in the Georgia State Legislature.

Members of National Order of Women Legislators serve as role models for women throughout this nation and the entire world. I ask my colleagues to join me today in saluting and congratulating the National Order of Women Legislators and the Georgia Chapter of the National Order of Women Legislators for setting a positive example to all Americans.●

TRIBUTE TO THE HOLLIS/BROOKLINE STUDENTS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN "WE THE PEOPLE . . ."

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to 27 students from Hollis/Brookline High School for winning the right to represent New Hampshire in the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" national competition in Washington, D.C.

As the New Hampshire state champions, the Hollis/Brookline students will compete against more than 1200 students from across the United States in a three-day national competition May 2-4, 1998. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of the Constitution and its relevance to contemporary issues in front of simulated congressional committees composed of constitutional scholars, lawyers, journalists, and government leaders.

The distinguished members of the Hollis/Brookline team are: Meghan Amber, Wayne Beuner, Randy Brown, Jonathon Davies, Meredith Edmunds, Jaima Elliott, Emily Gagne, Sara Godshall, Laura Hacker, Alex Harris, Nicola Huns, Craig Kimball, Sarah Kirby, Anna Klein, Brannon Klein, Maya Levine, Sara Liebling, Kass Litwin, Heidi Packard, Amy Rattin, Jared Rosenberg, Nadine Schneider, Carrie Spaulding, Kent Springfield, Anja Helene Stronen-Lien, Amy Tozier and Amanda Vormelker. Their teachers, Helen Melanson and Joel Mitchell, deserve special recognition for their role in preparing these students for this intense constitutional testing. I applaud them for their commitment to enriching the lives of these students.

As a former high school civics teacher myself, I recognize the value of instilling an understanding of the Constitution in students. The "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program provides an excellent opportunity for students to gain an informed perspective about the history and principles of our nation's constitutional government. I wish these young constitutional experts from Hollis/Brookline High School the best of luck in preparing for the national finals. It is an honor to have them represent New Hampshire, and I wish them luck as they prepare to be America's leaders in the twenty-first century. I am proud to represent them in the U.S. Senate.●

#### A LITERACY SUCCESS STORY

• Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on behalf of myself, Senator JEFFORDS and Senator REED, I would like to submit this statement given by Ms. Raynice Brumfield of Washington, D.C. for the RECORD. Ms. Brumfield testified at this morning's Labor and Human Resources Committee hearing on Reading and Literacy Initiatives. I commend her for the progress she has made as a participant of the D.C. Head Start Toyota