

including research data in its overall assessment of health risks. Public access to research data would help ensure that federal rules are based on the best science possible. I too would like to commend Senator SHELBY and Senator CAMPBELL, Chairman of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, for their efforts to correct this problem.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I thank my colleague from North Carolina. The public's lack of access to federal research data is an issue of growing concern to Members of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee. The lack of public access to research data feeds general public mistrust of government and undermines support for major regulatory programs. The Senator from Alabama has taken the lead on this important issue and I look forward to working with him and all my colleagues who have expressed support for enhanced public access to research data in Conference.

Mr. SHELBY. I thank the Majority Leader and my colleague from North Carolina and the Senator from Colorado, the Chairman of the Treasury and General Government Appropriations Subcommittee, for their support. The Administration's resistance to providing the public access to federal research data not otherwise protected from disclosure under current law indeed contradicts the spirit of current law. The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requests the Director of OMB to "foster greater sharing, dissemination, and access to public information." OMB Circular 110, Subpart C, is even more specific, stating that unless specifically waived, Federal agencies "have the right to . . . obtain, reproduce, publish or otherwise use the data first produced under an award". Unfortunately, these policy directives are not being implemented on a systematic basis. Given the prevalent use of government funded research data in developing regulations and federal policy, it is important that such data be made available to other interested Federal agencies and to the public on a routine basis for independent scientific evaluation and confirmation. I thank my colleagues for their support on this issue and I look forward to working with them to improve the language in Conference.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I thank my colleague from Alabama for raising this important issue and I look forward to working with you, Senator FAIRCLOTH and the Majority Leader in Conference to develop an effective solution.

Mr. SHELBY. I thank the Chairman for his support on this issue.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program as part of the Treasury Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 1999. I am pleased to see that this legislation increases national funding from \$10 million to \$13 million for 1999.

Gangs are a serious problem in this country. We must be proactive in finding ways to stop gang violence.

A recent article in the Washington Post noted that nearly twice as many teenagers reported gangs in their schools in 1995 as they did in 1989. School administrators from North Carolina have found that gangs and violence go together. I believe that when we couple gangs and violence with drug use and weapons, we have a formula for disaster.

Fortunately, programs like the GREAT program educate children about the perils of gangs and offer alternative ways to resolve conflicts rather than through violence. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Treasury and General Government, BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL, for the inclusion of North Carolina counties in the GREAT program: Bladen, Cumberland, Mecklenburg, New Hanover, and Wake. I hope that more communities in North Carolina and this country will follow their lead.

Experts may say that small involvement in the GREAT program means that there is little gang activity in the state. I believe that we should not wait until there is evidence of a gang before we bring GREAT into a school district. We must be proactive in educating our young people about the dangers of gangs. If we wait until there is a problem, then we may face a deadly situation like those faced this year by several of our nation's schools. We must act before it is too late. GREAT is a sound program which I am pleased to support.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 3379, AS MODIFIED

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, I would like to second the comments of my colleague from Michigan and add that I also have no objection to the McConnell amendment as it has been changed and offered today.

The amendment as it is now constructed will call for a periodic vote of the Commission to re-confirm the General Counsel, but it will not allow a partisan minority of the Commission to act unilaterally, and it will not leave the position of General Counsel open until a successor is appointed, thereby paralyzing the enforcement efforts of the agency.

I am also pleased that this amendment allows the current General Counsel to serve a term of eight years from enactment. I am confident that the amendment in its current form will be enacted into law and signed by the President.

Finally, today we add crucial money to the FEC budget in order to help the agency to investigate and prove violations of the existing law. The additional 2.8 million dollars in enforcement funds bring our Senate appropriation for the FEC up to the same level offered in the House. These funds are an important step in allowing the agency the resources it needs to investigate and enforce our remaining campaign finance laws.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I ask unanimous consent when the Senate completes all debate on S. 2312, the Fiscal Year 1999 Treasury and General Government Appropriations Act, the Chair lay before the Senate Calendar No. 478, the House companion measure, H.R. 4104; that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 2312, as amended, be inserted in lieu thereof; and that the House bill, as amended, be read for the third time and the Senate immediately move to final passage of H.R. 4104; that the Senate insist on its amendment and request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and the Chair appoint the following conferees on the part of the Senate: Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. KOHL, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. BYRD, and that the foregoing occur without any intervening action or debate.

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. With that, Mr. President, I have no further comment.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. As a Senator from the State of Nebraska, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 1:45 today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:19 p.m., recessed until 1:44 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. ENZI).

#### TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes on the legislation before us.

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

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to express my desire to work further with the Chair of the subcommittee and ranking minority member on a particularly important provision affecting our YMCAs, our YWCAs and other charitable organizations that do so much good work throughout the country. Throughout the recess, I heard continually from constituents who enjoy these important organizations in Oregon that they are concerned about a provision in the committee report accompanying this legislation that deals with the tax-exempt