

our children and we ought to be about the business of looking out for the interests of these children to make sure they are going to have a well-qualified teacher in every classroom in this country. That ought to be our hope, that ought to be our challenge, and that is what we are working for. And that ought to be an effort made in the local community. It ought to be an effort made at the State level. But we should not say we are going to abandon our national interest by saying we are not going to interfere if there are inadequate capabilities, or an inability, which is too often the case, to help and assist local communities, particularly when so many local communities such as we have seen in the recent times in Chicago and many other communities—my own city of Boston—are making this extraordinary effort to enhance the academic achievement for the children of this country and in those communities.

We ought to be able to say we will be a partner with you, we are willing to be a partner with the local community, we are willing to be a partner with the State, and we are going to be a partner in helping to modernize our facilities. Otherwise, the promise that we are going to convince this next generation that we are serious about their education is going to be a hollow one. No child will go into a classroom and see that it is in a deteriorated condition and then be exposed to other areas where everything is bright and shiny and new because of greater expenditures and not say, "What is really important? What do our parents really think is important? Where they are spending the money is what is bright and shiny and new."

When we are not expending the resources in the classrooms, we send a very powerful message—it may be a subtle message but it is a powerful one—that we are not prepared as a nation to do what needs to be done to upgrade the classrooms in this country.

I hope in the remaining hours of this process, as our leaders, our appropriators and leaders, members of those committees, get together to work out the final budget, as we are starting over for the next year, that the education budget is going to have the priority that every American family wants it to have, and that is priority No. 1. I hope when we come to that No. 1 we are going to say, "The size of our classes is of enormous importance and consequence in terms of the ability of the teacher to relate to the children."

We have just heard an eloquent statement to that effect from some wonderful teachers from the State of South Dakota, as well as from Missouri, talking about the relationship between the teacher and the student and how it is enhanced to such an extraordinary degree when we have smaller class sizes. It ought to be self-evident and it ought to be intuitive. It is, in fact, true.

I am not taking the time this morning—although I have at other times

and will again—to talk about the progress that has been made in academic achievement in a number of communities when they have seen the significant reduction in the number of students per teacher that has taken place in communities and States across this country. The evidence is overwhelming that it has an enormously important positive impact.

So let's get about doing what we know works, and that is to increase the number of teachers that we need in our schools. Even with the expansion of the number of students in our schools, let us increase the number of teachers, and let us enhance the quality of those teachers to make sure we are going to have good, qualified teachers in every classroom. Let's make sure the number of students in those classrooms will be such that the teacher is going to be able to identify and spend some moments with each child in that classroom. That is the hope and desire of the teachers who have committed themselves to excellence, to trying to enhance that academic achievement and accomplishment. Let's be a partner with the local communities and the States that are embarking on that effort.

Let us, as we are going through the final days now—let's not leave town. Let's not say we will take whatever is served up to us in the budget. Let us say education is important. We can go about the business of trying to make a difference in the classrooms and in the quality of the people who will be in those classrooms. Let us resolve that we will do that before we leave this town. That is, I think, an important responsibility that we have. We should not fail our children.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). The Senator from Minnesota.

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the work of domestic violence shelters and centers in my home state of Minnesota. As my colleagues may know, October is recognized as "National Domestic Violence Awareness Month." This is a time to strengthen our resolve to end domestic violence and sexual assault. More importantly, it is also a time to remember those who have suffered and died as a result of these terrible crimes.

I am very concerned about the number of domestic violence incidents in our society. Americans should not have to live in fear of being abused by anyone, let alone a family member.

In my view, community-based domestic violence shelters and centers should be commended for their support for victims of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Their efforts to provide shelter, counseling, and assistance to battered women and children have helped families and communities escape domestic violence.

I ask unanimous consent the names of these Minnesota organizations be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Advocates For Family Peace.  
African American Family Services.  
Aitkin County Advocates Against Domestic Abuse.  
Alexandra House.  
Anishinabe Circle of Peace.  
Anne Pierce Rogers Home.  
Asian Women United of Minnesota.  
B. Robert Lewis Intervention Project.  
B. Robert Lewis House Shelter.  
Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project.  
Big Stone County Outreach.  
Bois Forte Battered Women's Program.  
Breaking Free.  
Brian Coyle Community Center.  
Brown County Victim Services.  
Casa de Esperanza.  
Cass County Family Safety Network.  
Center for Family Crisis.  
Chisago County Victim's Assistance Program.  
Citizen's Council Victim Services.  
Committee Against Domestic Abuse.  
Community University Health Care Center.  
Cornerstone Advocacy Services.  
Crime Victims Resource Center.  
Division of Indian Work.  
Domestic Violence Abuse Advocates of Wabasha County.  
Domestic Abuse Intervention Project.  
Domestic Abuse Project.  
Domestic Abuse Project of Goodhue County.  
Eastside Neighborhood Service.  
Family Help Center.  
Family Safety Network.  
Family Services.  
Family Violence Intervention Project.  
Family Violence Network.  
Family Violence Program.  
Fillmore Family Resources, Inc.  
Fond du Lac Reservation Business Committee.  
Forest Lake Area New Beginnings.  
Freeborn County Victim's Crisis Center.  
Friends Against Abuse.  
Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council.  
Gender Violence Institute.  
Grand Portage Reservation "Wil Dooka Wada".  
Grant County Outreach.  
Hands of Hope Resource Center.  
Hands of Hope.  
Harriet Tubman Center, Inc.  
Harriet Tubman Pilot City Outreach Program.  
Headwaters Intervention Center, Inc.  
Health Start.  
Health System Minnesota AdvoCare.  
Hennepin County Legal Advocacy Project.  
Hill Home.  
Home Free Domestic Assault Intervention Project.  
Home Free Shelter—Missions, Inc.  
Houston County Mediation & Victims Services.  
Houston County Women's Resource.  
Lakes Crisis Center.  
Leech Lake Family Violence Prevention/Intervention Program.  
LeSeuer/Sibley Violence Project.  
Listening Ear Crisis Center.  
Lyon County Violence Intervention Project.  
McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence, Inc.  
Methodist Hospital AdvoCare Program.  
Midway Family Service and Abuse Center.  
Migrant Health Service.

Mille Lacs Women's Project.  
 Minneapolis Intervention Project.  
 Mujeres Unidas/Los Ninos.  
 North Memorial Women's Center.  
 North Shore Horizons Women's Resource Center.  
 Northwoods Coalition for Battered Women.  
 OtterTail County Crisis Center.  
 PEARL: Battered Women's Resource Center.  
 Phyllis Wheatley Community Center.  
 Pillsbury Neighborhood Services.  
 Pope County Outreach PRIDE (Women Used In Prostitution).  
 Project P.E.A.C.E.  
 Ramsey Intervention Project.  
 Range Women's Advocates.  
 Rape and Abuse Crisis Center.  
 Refuge.  
 Refuge East.  
 Refuge North.  
 Region IV Council on Domestic Violence.  
 Rivers of Hope—Buffalo.  
 Rivers of Hope—Elk River.  
 Safe Journey.  
 SAFE, Inc.  
 St. Cloud Intervention Project.  
 St. Paul Intervention Project.  
 Sheller House/Woodland Centers.  
 Sojourner Project.  
 Sojourner Project intervention.  
 Southern Minnesota Crisis Support Center.  
 Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women.  
 Southern Valley Intervention Project.  
 Southwest Crisis Center.  
 Stevens County Outreach.  
 Traverse County Outreach.  
 Tuning Point for Victims of Domestic Abuse.  
 Unity/Waite House.  
 Victim's Crisis Center.  
 Violence Intervention Project (CADA).  
 Violence Intervention Project—Ada.  
 Violence Intervention Project—Crookston.  
 Violence Intervention Project—Hallock.  
 Violence Intervention Project—Rouseau.  
 Violence Intervention Project—Thief River Falls.  
 Waseca Area Violence Intervention Project.  
 Washington County Intervention Services.  
 Wilkin County Outreach.  
 W.I.N.D.O.W.  
 Wilder Community Assistance Program.  
 Wilder Domestic Abuse Program.  
 Winona Domestic Assault Intervention Project.  
 Woman House.  
 Woman House advocates at St. Cloud hospital.  
 WomanKind (Fairview Ridges).  
 WomanKind (Fairview Southdale).  
 WomanKind (Fairview University).  
 WomanSafe.  
 Women Alive Crisis Center "Equay Be Mah De See Win"  
 Women of Nations Eagles' Nest Shelter.  
 Women of Nallons Community Advocacy Project.  
 Women's Advocates.  
 Women's Center, Inc.  
 Women's Center of Mid-Minnesota.  
 Women's Coalition.  
 Women's Resource Center of Steele County.  
 Women's Resource Center.  
 WRAP of Cottonwood County.  
 WRAP of Lincoln County.  
 WRAP of Redwood Co.  
 Women's Shelter.  
 Women's Shelter intervention Project.  
 Womenspace.  
 Yellow Medicine Women's Center.  
 African American Family Service.  
 Battered Women's Programs.  
 Battered Women's Justice Project.  
 Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project.

Black, Indian, Hispanic & Asian Women In Action.

BrotherPeace.  
 Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.  
 Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center.

Mr. President, we should also note that this year marks the fourth anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act. Through increased sentences, grants to State governments for prevention programs and other services, and the new national domestic abuse hotline, the Violence Against Women Act has contributed significantly toward protecting individuals from sexual offenses and domestic abuse. I am proud to have supported this landmark legislation as a member of the House of Representatives during the 103rd Congress.

Since the passage of the Violence Against Women Act, funding provided for these programs has led to the further development of policies to prevent and respond to domestic abuse incidents. This includes specialized domestic violence court advocates who obtain protection orders, in conjunction with greater support to enhance the ability of prosecutors and law enforcement to punish those who commit these crimes.

Despite these important achievements, the number of siblings, spouses, and children subjected to domestic abuse remains too high. Regrettably, most victims of domestic violence are women.

According to the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, 210 Minnesota women died from domestic abuse between 1988 and 1997. Sadly, this loss of life underscores the importance of increasing public awareness regarding domestic violence and the community-based organizations that are working to prevent others from falling victim to this violence.

Mr. President, domestic abuse is not limited to the privacy of households. In many places of businesses, battered individuals are subjected to emotional abuse in the form of threatening phone calls and harassment.

Fortunately, companies have begun to recognize that employees who are subject to domestic violence at home are more likely to be absent from work and less productive at their jobs.

In fact, a recent survey of corporate senior executives by Roper Starch Worldwide on behalf of Liz Claiborne, Inc. found that: Fifty-seven percent of those surveyed believe that domestic violence is a major problem in society; thirty-three percent feel that domestic abuse had a negative impact on their bottom lines; and four out of ten executives surveyed were personally aware of employees and other individuals affected by domestic violence.

I commend efforts by private sector employers who have responded to this problem by establishing Employee Assistance Programs and other services that will safely protect employees who have become domestic violence victims.

Mr. President, Minnesotans will have the opportunity this month to participate in a variety of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month initiatives. Throughout October, citizens will raise public awareness through candlelight vigils, rallies, and marches throughout our communities.

One of the more creative programs will be an art exhibit honoring 30 Minneapolis public high school students who are finalists in the "Speak Up" domestic violence awareness poster contest.

This initiative, co-sponsored by the Harriet Tubman Center and Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis, will encourage students to increase public awareness and prevention of family violence. The competition will award scholarships to twelve individuals who present various domestic violence themes in their artwork.

Next fall, these works will be part of the Annual Domestic Violence Art exhibit in the Russell Senate Office Building sponsored by my colleague, Senator Paul WELLSTONE.

I am certain many Members of Congress will visit this exhibit to admire the important contributions of these young Minnesotans toward raising the consciousness of our communities about the issue of domestic abuse.

Domestic violence is not an insurmountable problem facing our society. We must work together to curb this problem that crosses over economical, cultural, and political boundaries.

Through the efforts of community groups, families, and law enforcement, Americans can take meaningful steps toward eradicating the presence of this crime in their daily lives.

#### PRINCIPLE, COURAGE, AND TAX CUTS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I want to take the remaining part of my time this morning to talk about a subject I have worked on for the 6 years I have been in Congress, and that is trying to raise the awareness of the issue of taxes in this country, that we are now taxed at an all-time high, and that Americans need and deserve some form of tax relief.

So, Mr. President, I wanted to take time to rise today to express my disappointment over the Senate's failure to fulfill its obligations to the taxpayers to consider and to pass any kind of tax relief bill this year.

Fiscally, socially, morally, this is a tremendous mistake, and I believe my colleagues are wrong. I am equally disappointed at President Clinton's threats to veto this important legislation had it passed. It is the same case as last year when, in the State of Virginia, when then-candidate for Governor Gilmore was pledging a tax cut of his own. The President said at that time that Virginians would be "selfish" to vote for tax relief. This year he says "to squander money on a tax cut"—again, that is how President