

churches and synagogues, in our modern society contributions to a youth culture devoid of moral responsibility and accountability. All of these factors conspire to disconnect our children from humanity, and are turning some of them into killers.

Our homes and our families—our children's minds, are being flooded by a tide of violence. This dehumanizing violence pervades our society: our movies depict graphic violence; our children are taught to kill and maim by interactive video games; the Internet, which holds such tremendous potential in so many ways, is tragically used by some to communicate unimaginable hatred, images and descriptions of violence, and "how-to" manuals on everything from bomb construction to drugs.

With the pressures of this modern society, the emphasis on technology, the demand for performance, the fast pace of events, our children seem to be increasingly isolated from family and peers.

If we are to turn this tide of youth violence, we must examine all of these factors together. We must develop a comprehensive understanding of how these factors interrelate to produce a child capable of the shocking violence unfolding in our streets and school yards.

I have repeatedly joined various of my colleagues in efforts to call the entertainment industry to task for creating and marketing violent products to children. Most recently, I joined in many of my distinguished colleagues, prominent Americans, and concerned citizens in an "Appeal to Hollywood," asking the leaders of the entertainment industry to adopt a voluntary code of conduct exercising restraint from marking violence and smut to our nation's youth. I have also introduced legislation requiring the Surgeon General to complete a comprehensive study to determine the effect of media violence on children. I joined Senator Lieberman in calling for a special Youth Violence Study Commission that will study all of the various complex factors that conspire to generate such youth violence as we have recently witnessed. Earlier this year, I also introduced the Youth Violence Prevention Act, which targeted the various illegal ways by which our nation's children are gaining access to guns. As I have stated, this is a complex problem, and we must press the issue on all fronts.

For this reason, I wish to commend the efforts of MTV and the Recording Industry Association of America. The electronic media dominate much of our children's lives. They are the first generation of Americans to grow up entirely in a digital age. Much of what they see through the media is good. Some of it is both irresponsible and dangerous.

The "Take a Stand Against Violence" campaign represents the positive potential of the television and music industry. It is a positive cam-

paign that engages the various factors that contribute to youth violence, and most important, it does so in a language that young people understand. As I believe the entertainment industry should be held responsible when they peddle violence and smut to America's youth, I equally believe that the industry should be given credit for the many positive things they do.

The epidemic of youth violence in our Nation is a complex challenge. It will only be solved if we all work together. Again, I urge all Americans to get involved in their kids' lives. Ask questions, listen to their fears and concerns, their hopes and their dreams.

Again, I think we should commend entertainment industry leaders when they take positive steps to curb the tide of youth violence. In particular, I want to commend MTV and the Recording Industry of America for the "Take a Stand Against Violence" campaign. It represents a very positive step, and should serve as an example for others in the entertainment field.

Mr. President, I ask that a summary of this program be inserted into the RECORD following my statement.

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

FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS: TAKE A STAND  
AGAINST VIOLENCE

MTV's Emmy Award-winning 1999 pro-social campaign "Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence" gives young people a voice in the national debate on violence and provides them with tactics for reducing violence in their communities. Fight for Your Rights involves special programming, Public Service Announcements, grassroots events, and News special reports.

Both on air and off, MTV's campaign focuses on the three types of violence that most affect its audience: Violence in the Schools, Violence in the Streets (hate violence and gang violence), and Sexual Violence. Through high profile programming events, coverage on MTV News, thought-provoking on-air promos, a 20 college campus tour, and local events involving cable affiliates across the country, the campaign provides ideas beyond curfews and school uniforms. Focusing on solutions, such as peer mentoring, conflict resolution programs, artistic responses to violence and youth advocacy groups, Fight for Your Rights gives young people the tools they need to take a stand against violence.

"Fight for Your Rights: Take a Stand Against Violence" programming includes:

True Life: Warning Signs, an investigation of the psychological factors that can cause a young person to turn violent, produced in conjunction with the American Psychological Association.

Point Blank, a one-hour national debate on the issue of gun control and the role guns play in the lives of young people.

Scared Straight! 1999, MTV's update of the Oscar and Emmy award-winning documentary of the same title.

Rising Hate Crimes Among Youth, an examination of the alarming increase in hate-related incidents.

Unfiled: Violence from the Eyes of Youth, puts cameras in the hands of 10-15 young people to document violence in their lives.

True Life: Matthew's Murder, takes viewers into the heart of young America's shock

and confusion about the death of 21-year old college student Matthew Shepard.

Fight Back, a hard-hitting look at the thousands of young women and men who are the victims of sexual abuse each year.

Through partnerships with The US Departments of Justice and Education, as well as the National Endowment for the Arts, MTV developed a 24-page Action Guide/all-star CD that will be distributed throughout the campaign. The CD contains music and comments on the subject of violence from top recording artists such as Lauryn Hill, Dave Matthews, Alanis Morissette, and many others. The Guide outlines five actions aimed at engaging young people in solutions to violence, as well as providing alternative outlets to violence. One million copies of the CD/Guide package will be given away to MTV viewers via a special toll-free number promoted on MTV during PSA's, programming and on-air promotions devoted specifically to the topic of youth violence.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) graciously donated and manufactured the all-star CD which also contains CD-ROM content focusing on conflict resolution skills produced by the National Center for Conflict Resolution Education.

CONGRESS MISSES THE BUS ON  
GUN CONTROL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in less than two weeks, the students of Columbine High School will resume classes and begin their 1999-2000 school year. Since the now infamous Columbine massacre on April 20th, the school has gone through a complete transformation. Sixteen high-definition security cameras have been installed in the school; bullet holes have been patched or covered; the alarm system, which rang for hours during the reign of terror, has been replaced; and new glass windows have been installed to replace broken ones shattered by bullets and home-made bombs. In addition, keyed entry doors have been replaced by high-security electronic doors, a makeshift library has been created out of classrooms, and the school district has hired two additional security guards for protection.

School officials will be making additional changes up until the very day students come back on August 16th, all in an effort to make the Columbine students feel safer when they return to school. Yet, Columbine students were not the only ones affected by last April's shooting. Students and teachers around the nation have lost the sense of safety they deserve to have at school. These students will hardly regain that safety by new landscaping or replaced alarm systems. These students and their families will continue to live in fear until the real issue at hand is addressed: the easy accessibility that young people have to guns.

When school resumes on August 16th at Columbine and around the nation, Congress will have done nothing to prevent young people from purchasing dangerous weapons. Students across the nation will walk into school to begin a new year, while Congress is in a month-long recess, having done nothing to change the same loopholes in the

same Federal firearms laws that put the weapons in the hands of minors.

Congress's failure to act is inexcusable. Moderate reforms designed to limit juvenile access to firearms are long overdue. Yet, proponents of even the most modest gun safety legislation have come up against nothing but stonewalling and procedural delays. Sadly, it seems as if action on the juvenile justice bill is only propelled forward by additional tragedies; the Senate bill, having been passed on the day of another school shooting at Heritage High School in Conyers, Georgia, and the final motion to appoint conferees occurring just one day after a mass shooting in Atlanta. I pray that it does not take yet another mass shooting to move this legislation out of Conference Committee and onto the President's desk.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, pursuant to section 313(c) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, I submit for the Record a list of material considered to be extraneous under subsections (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), and (b)(1)(E) of section 313. The inclusion or exclusion of material on the following list does not constitute a determination of extraneousness by the Presiding Officer of the Senate.

To the best of my knowledge, the conference agreement for the Financial Freedom Act of 1999, H.R. 2488, contains no material considered to be extraneous under subsections (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(B), and (b)(1)(E) of section 313 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

#### THE NEW MILLENNIUM CLASSROOMS ACT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to engage in a brief colloquy with the Majority Leader regarding the New Millennium Classrooms Act. Last week, the Abraham-Wyden New Millennium Classrooms Act amendment to the Taxpayer Refund Act of 1999 was cleared on both sides of the aisle and accepted by the full United States Senate. This bill provided tax incentives for businesses to donate both new and used computers to K-12 schools and senior centers. The Senate's approval of this amendment demonstrates our strong commitment to provide school children—especially those children who live in impoverished areas—access to up-to-date computer technology and the Internet. Unfortunately, despite the Senate's strong support for this measure, I understand that it was opposed by the House conferees to the Taxpayer Refund Act.

Mr. LOTT. The Senator from Michigan is correct. The New Millennium Classrooms Act was not included in the House-passed tax bill, and was later omitted from the final tax conference report at the request of House Ways and Means Chairman Bill Archer. I

would say that to the Senator from Michigan that your New Millennium Classrooms Act remains a top legislative priority for our Senate Republican High Tech Task Force. Accordingly, I will continue to work with you to find a way to secure final Congressional approval of this important pro-technology, pro-education initiative.

Mr. ABRAHAM. I thank the Majority Leader for his support.

#### FORMOSAN TERMITES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to engage into a colloquy with the distinguished Chairman and the senior senator from Louisiana, Mr. BREAUX, about two very important ongoing agriculture research projects relating to Formosan termites, and phytoestrogen research ongoing in Louisiana, which the Appropriations Committee has supported in the past.

For the past two fiscal years, vital funding has been provided to the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans to continue "Operation FullStop", which has targeted research and test pilots to find ways to control the Formosan termite. This pest, first introduced into the United States from east Asia in the 1940s has spread like a plague through the Southeast, and its range now extends from Texas to South Carolina. In Louisiana, damage is most severe in New Orleans where the total annual cost of termite damage and treatment is estimated at an astonishing \$217,000,000. Many historic structures in the French Quarter have been devastated, and now as many as 1/3 of the beloved live oaks that shade historic thoroughfares such as St. Charles Avenue are at risk of being lost to termite damage. To help find appropriate controls for Formosan termites in Louisiana and other states where termites are just being found, it is critical for this research to continue.

Additionally, the Southern Regional Research Center in coordination with Tulane and Xavier Universities in New Orleans have merged their complementary expertise in a unique and powerful collaborative on comparative research of the impact of Phytoestrogens on human health. These natural chemicals in soybeans and other plant substances is only starting to receive attention as dietary substances capable of improving human health. In addition, to showing beneficial health effects for the prevention of breast cancer and other health disorders, this research has developed techniques in molecular biology which could lead to applications that control the development of harmful insects. Researchers are on the verge of harnessing this knowledge and applying it to the possible biological amelioration of Formosan termite infestations. Thus, continuation of this research funded by a special Agriculture Research Service grant, is needed to build upon the ongoing program and hopefully find answers to how chemicals found in plant products

could be used to replace other toxic pharmaceuticals and pesticides.

Mr. BREAUX. Thank you, Senator LANDRIEU. I agree that it is vital that these ongoing agriculture research projects be given much deserved and badly needed attention and consideration by the U.S. Congress, and I join Senator LANDRIEU in my concern about the urgency to control Formosan termite devastation to privately-owned and public property, to historic preservation, to commerce, and to economic development. Research being conducted at the Agriculture Research Service in New Orleans is vital to controlling the Formosan termite. Formosan termites are unique and are capable of inflicting more damage to more plant species than native termite species. In addition, they have unique biological traits which make them more difficult to control, such as being able to avoid traditional termite controlling toxins by building nests above ground. The fundamental research currently conducted in New Orleans will identify vulnerabilities in termite biology or colony development which can be exploited for the development of new detection methods and environmentally-sound control strategies. The structural foundation of New Orleans and other areas all along the coast will benefit from this research.

Also, the ongoing Phytoestrogen research being conducted by the Southern Regional Research Center in coordination with Tulane and Xavier Universities in New Orleans is an exemplary partnership. The Tulane/Xavier Center for Bioenvironmental Research has one of the leading laboratory efforts in the world for the study of estrogenic chemicals, including Phytoestrogens. USDA's Southern Research Center has 54 years of distinguished service to agriculture and science, making this a productive and sensible collaboration. The ramifications of this partnership will be broad-reaching, aiding not only the prevention and treatment of disease in humans, but also the development of safe biological alternatives to conventional pest control. I join Senator LANDRIEU in looking forward to the continuation of these projects.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I appreciate very much the comments from my colleagues from Louisiana. Both of my colleagues can rest assured that I will keep these issues clearly in focus as we deliberate the fiscal year 2000 Agriculture Appropriations bill in conference with the other body. Additionally, I am aware of the many other important past and present research projects ongoing at the Southern Regional Research Center. This is an excellent agriculture research center, and funding for its work should be carefully considered by the conference committee.