

VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, it has been more than a year since the Columbine tragedy, but still this Republican Congress refuses to act on sensible gun legislation.

Since Columbine, thousands of Americans have been killed by gunfire. Until we act, Democrats in the Senate will read the names of some of those who have lost their lives to gun violence in the past year, and we will continue to do so every day that the Senate is in session.

In the name of those who died, we will continue this fight. Following are the names of some of the people who were killed by gunfire one year ago today.

October 4, 1999:

Darius Bradley, 18, Baltimore, MD; Joseph Booker, 21, Chicago, IL; Vincent Dobson, 22, Baltimore, MD; Frank Garner, 22, Kansas City, MO; Larry D. Hadley, 43, Madison, WI; Joseph Hall, 20, Detroit, MI; Arthur Harris, 39, Houston, TX; Kendall Hawks, 18, Baltimore, MD; Clarence Jackson, 21, New Orleans, LA; Derrick Jacque, 24, New Orleans, LA; Jasul Johnson, 23, Philadelphia, PA; Charlotte Lindsey, 50, Memphis, TN; James McClinton, 24, Chicago, IL; Richard Mitchell, 51, Detroit, MI; Shawn Moore, 25, New Orleans, LA; Cedric Outler, 41, Miami-Dade County, FL; Zawakie Walker, 23, Detroit, MI; Darius Washington, 31, Baltimore, MD; William Wilson, 24, Baltimore, MD; and Unidentified male, 72, Nashville, TN.

We cannot sit back and allow such senseless gun violence to continue. The deaths of these people are a reminder to all of us that we need to enact sensible gun legislation now.

ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO WOMEN

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to speak on a pending piece of legislation that I believe requires our urgent attention. The fact that the leadership has not acted to bring this bill to the floor is of great concern to me. While I understand that our time is short and our list is long, the Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women's Act should be on the list of priorities for this Congress. I urge the leadership not to allow another day to pass and to bring this bill to the floor for our immediate consideration.

In 1994, with the President's strong support, Congress passed the landmark Violence Against Women Act, which established new Federal criminal provisions and key grant programs to improve this nation's criminal justice system's response to domestic violence. Since that time, the number of crimes against women has decreased. A recent report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics shows that the number of women experiencing violence at the hands of an intimate partner declined 21 percent from 1993 to 1998. Under this bill, the

Federal Government has awarded \$1.6 billion dollars, \$24 million of which went to support programs in the State of Louisiana, to help support the efforts of prosecutors, law enforcement officials, the courts, victim advocates, health care and social service professionals, and intervention and prevention programs. The National Domestic Violence Hotline, established with funds from this Act, has received more than 500,000 calls since it began operating.

While I think the success of this Act alone is an important reason to support its continuation, it is not why I stand here today. Although the number of women murdered by an intimate partner is the lowest it has been since 1976, still, 3 out of 4 victims murdered last year were female. Tremendous strides have been made, but domestic violence and crimes against women continue to devastate the lives of many women and children throughout our country.

In fact, in May of this year, one week after Mother's Day, a Louisiana woman, Jacquene Gersfeld, was gunned down by her husband just outside a Gretna courthouse. The couple had a history of violence and friends reported that this was not the first time Jacquene's husband, Marvin, had threatened to kill her. Far too often, abused women are afraid, and many times for good reason, to remove themselves from these abusive relationships, but not Jacquene, she sought help, obtained a protective order and filed for divorce. She left that courtroom believing that her days of living in fear were over and that her husband could no longer harm her. But she was wrong.

I am sad to say that Jacquene's story is not unique. In New Orleans alone, the Domestic Violence help line receives 16,000 calls for assistance a year. Of the total women's homicide rate, 46 percent of those deaths are attributed to domestic violence. And that is just one city in my state. I am certain that every one of my colleagues could come to this floor and tell of a woman in their state whose fate was that of Jacquene's. As citizens of the greatest democracy in the world, we cannot stand idly by and watch these stories unfold. The need for the services provided for under the Violence Against Women Act are needed now more than ever. Women like Jacquene must be protected from the wrath of their estranged abusers. They must know that there are people willing to help them and their children escape the abuse and start a new life.

While domestic violence may be dismissed by some as an issue that affects only women, it is not, it is an issue that affects us all. Studies show that a child's exposure to the father abusing the mother is the strongest risk factor for transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next. A significant number of young males in the juvenile justice system were from homes where violence was the order of the

day. Family violence costs the nation from \$5 to \$10 billion annually in medical expenses, police and court costs, shelters and foster care, sick leave, absenteeism, and non-productivity. In fact, the majority of welfare recipients have experienced domestic abuse in their adult lives and a high percentage are currently abused.

My Colleague from Delaware, Senator BIDEN, and I have cosponsored legislation to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. If Congress fails to reauthorize VAWA, many critical programs may be jeopardized. Reauthorization legislation, which has broad bipartisan support will help to: maintain existing programs, expand investigation and prosecution of crimes against women; provide greater numbers of victims with assistance; maintain and expand the domestic violence hotline, shelter, rape prevention, and education programs; and support effective partnerships between law enforcement, victim advocates and communities.

Again, I am disappointed that this Congress is quickly coming to a close and this bill is still waiting for action by the Senate. Several times during the campaign, the leadership has claimed that the issues that are important to women are of the highest priority. I can hardly think of an issue that more directly affects the lives of women and their families than their health and safety.

Since we returned from the August recess, several members have come to the floor and talked about time. The minority leader eloquently detailed the amount of time, or lack thereof, that this body has dedicated to actually doing the work of the American people. The majority leader, on the other hand, has cautioned us that time is limited and we, therefore, must use it wisely. I could not agree more—time is running out and so, it is about time that we ask the Majority to do more than make empty promises. It is about time we question the sincerity of a party when their Presidential candidate needs to be briefed before he can take a stance on legislation to end violence against women. It is about time we do all we can to make good on a promise that we made six years ago to victims like Jacquene. While it is too late for us to help her, we owe to the hundreds and thousands of others like her to act quickly. I implore my colleagues not to let time run out for the millions of women whose lives could be saved by this legislation.

REQUEST FOR PRINTING OF THE ECSTASY ANTI-PROLIFERATION ACT OF 2000 IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, on 23 May 2000, I introduced the Ecstasy Anti-proliferation Act of 2000, now known as S. 2612. The original bill text was not printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for that day. I am resubmitting