

streets. I am pleased that they will have a say in this important issue that so directly impacts their lives.

#### FINAL PASSAGE OF THE TAX BILL

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, this is a sad day for the U.S. Senate and America's economic future. Yesterday we rushed through an unbalanced, backloaded, overbloated tax-cut that we literally cannot afford, that runs a substantial risk of driving us back into the ditch of deficits and higher interest rates, and in the end could affect our long-term prosperity which we have worked so hard to build. And for what purpose? To meet the arbitrary deadline of passing a bill by Memorial Day.

This bill and the whole process for considering it is a case study in irresponsibility, not just fiscally but governmentally. By squandering the surplus this way, we are squandering an historic opportunity to meet a number of national needs and to strengthen our economic security in the coming years. We lost an opportunity to pass not just a tax plan but a prosperity plan, geared to long-term economic growth. We lost an opportunity to pay down the debt and keep interest rates low.

We may well have lost an opportunity to pass a strong prescription drug benefit and strengthen the long-term stability of Medicare and Social Security for the retirement of the baby boom generation. And we may have lost an opportunity to make strategic investments in education, job training, scientific research—all of which we know are critical to expanding the winners' circle in this innovation economy. In short, we lost an opportunity to make the surplus work for us. Instead, we have given it all away in a tax cut tilted to give the most help to those who need it least.

I support tax cuts, and have voted for tax cuts, but they should be cuts we can afford. Some of the tax reductions for which I have advocated were included in this bill as part of the manager's amendment. Specifically, this amendment makes the R&D tax credit permanent, an issue on which I have been working for many years, makes a start on college tuition deductibility, and accelerates the wage credits for Round II Enterprise Zones, a program I have supported from its inception. These provisions, however, do not make up for the fiscal irresponsibility and lack of vision this bill represents.

I cautioned earlier this year that ten years from now, we will be judged by the decisions we make today. People will ask, did we fully understand the awesome changes taking place in our economy and in our society? Did we create a plan to assure our ongoing prosperity? Did we direct our unprecedented surpluses into investments with the greatest returns? Did we give our workers the tools they needed to seize the opportunities an innovation economy offers? And, were we guided by the fiscal discipline and values that had

brought us so far in the past decade? Much to my chagrin, I am no longer confident that these questions will be answered affirmatively.

Indeed, we have passed a bill that relies heavily on a surplus whose size six months down the road is unclear, to say nothing of its dimensions ten years from now. The inflated size of this tax cut may well force us to set discretionary spending at levels that don't keep pace with inflation. We may be forced to return to the fiscally-destructive practice of deficit spending by borrowing from the Social Security and Medicare trust funds. Additionally, this tax cut pays nothing but lip service to reducing the national debt, the very step that has proven to be so valuable to the health of our economy in recent years by keeping the cost of capital and interest rates low. In fact, this bill crowds our ability to devote a single dollar, aside from funds already committed to the Medicare and Social Security Trust Funds, toward debt reduction.

I am especially concerned that the idea of an immediate economic stimulus has been abandoned. During the debate on the budget resolution last month, we Democrats argued that the economy needed a jump-start and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle agreed to adopt a stimulus package. Our plan was fair. It was fast. And it was fiscally responsible. It was fair because it was directed at every American who paid any taxes—payroll or income. It was fast because it would go into effect immediately, with rebate checks being cut within weeks. And not least of all, it was fiscally responsible because it fit into a balanced budget that did not spend money we do not have. Unfortunately, the so-called stimulus included in the tax bill we just passed does none of those things.

This bill may prove to be nothing but a one trick pony, and, if so, it's a bad trick to play on the American people. No matter the well-intentioned claims of my colleagues, this bill promises something we cannot deliver. It abandons fiscal discipline, fails to invest the wealth our Nation has earned over the past eight years, and may send us back down the road to debt, higher interest rates, and higher unemployment. It is not what the American people deserve, nor is it what they expected it to be.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY last month. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a heinous crime that occurred July 25, 2000 in Barron, Wisconsin, Raymond C.

Welton, 33, was charged with a hate crime in the murder of Michael Hatch, a 22-year-old hearing-impaired, disabled man on October 20. Prosecutors contend that Hatch was robbed and beaten to death with a tire iron in part because his assailants thought he was gay. Three perpetrators allegedly lured Hatch from a bar because one of them had gone to school with him and thought he was gay. They allegedly shouted gay slurs during the beating.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### ADOPTION TAX CREDIT

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Chairman from Iowa, and the Ranking Member from Montana for their distinguished leadership on the tax cut bill. Their support of the adoption tax credit amendment made the crucial difference in its being accepted as part of the manager's package. Both are true friends to children and families and should be commended for their willingness to ensure that this bill reflects the needs of adoptive parents. I would also like to thank Senators LINCOLN, LIEBERMAN, JOHNSON, MIKULSKI, BOXER, DASCHLE, DEWINE, HARKIN, SANTORUM, SHELBY, STEVENS, COCHRAN, DAYTON, DURBIN, HUTCHINSON, KOHL, SESSIONS, SMITH of New Hampshire, and FITZGERALD.

This is not the first time that I have come to this floor to urge my colleagues to support efforts to strengthen and extend the adoption tax credit. In fact, each and every time that this body considered the issue of tax relief, the senior Senator from Idaho and I have come before the Senate to argue that the adoption tax credit should be included. And while this is not the first time that this important measure has been successfully adopted as part of a tax bill, I am hopeful that it will be the last.

Because of our action here, 60,000 plus children will find their "forever families" in the year to come. Parents who have long dreamed about adopting will finally have the help necessary to make those dreams a reality. I could be wrong, but I would guess that few parts of the tax code can compare to the impact had by the adoption tax credit. Each time a child finds a loving home, we have not only saved children and strengthened a family, but we have also saved billions of taxpayer's dollars.

I believe that there is no such thing as an unwanted child, merely unfound families. This tax credit will help to find more families for more children. I would like to commend my colleagues for their support in passing this important amendment. With it, we will be

yet another step closer to the day when no child goes to bed feeling alone, unloved or unwanted.

#### LYME DISEASE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleague, Senator CHRIS DODD of Connecticut, in lending support to the pressing cause of addressing the ruinous effects of America's most common tick-borne illness, Lyme disease.

I thank the senior Senator from Connecticut for his long involvement and leadership on this most important public health issue. With thousands of Americans contracting Lyme disease each year, it is critical that we work aggressively to wage a comprehensive fight against this devastating tick-borne illness, which costs our country dearly in the way of medical expenditures and human suffering. The current lack of physician knowledge about Lyme and the inadequacies of existing detection methods are particularly problematic, and only serve to compound this growing public health hazard.

Approximately one year ago, I joined with Senator DODD, and Representatives SMITH of New Jersey, PITTS and GOODE to request of the U.S. General Accounting Office a report on some of the current concerns surrounding public and private efforts dedicated to Lyme. We asked about the past and present funding trends within the NIH and CDC and to what projects these resources are being devoted, and we asked about possible conflicts of interest within government agencies related to decisions about the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Lyme.

Although we have not yet received the official report of the GAO, we have received some preliminary findings that Senator DODD and I believed merited the development of new legislation that we are introducing today the Lyme and Infectious Disease Information and Fairness in testing "LIIFT" Act to build upon the solid foundation laid by the Lyme Disease Initiative of 1999.

The GAO's preliminary findings suggest that the CDC and NIH have lost sight of what ultimately matters to the people living with Lyme: Accurate diagnostic tools, access to effective treatment and ultimately a cure. Needless to say, the patient community is not well-served if these areas are not given proper priority at the CDC and NIH.

Between 1991 and 1999, the annual number of reported cases of Lyme disease increased by an astonishing 72 percent. Even as the dramatic increase took place, according to the GAO, funding for Lyme disease at the CDC has increased by only 7 percent over the past 10 years.

Whereas we applaud NIH for its work and we are pleased to see that Congress' efforts to double NIH funding have directly benefited Lyme research,

poor coordination and the lack of proper funding at the CDC has left too many questions unanswered. Senator DODD and I share the frustration of the patient community; why hasn't all of this research translated into better treatment? We similarly believe that the CDC's lack of proper funding and attention to tick-borne disease has stalled progress in the development of more accurate diagnostic tests for Lyme disease.

The LIIFT Act will seek to remedy these issues by ensuring that the proper collaboration is taking place on the Federal level the proper collaboration between the Federal Government and the people it serves. Our bill will also address the funding imbalances for Lyme disease activities at the CDC that has inhibited the development of accurate detection methods and treatment for Lyme.

With this new legislation we are calling for the formation of a Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee that will bring Federal agencies, such as the CDC and the NIH, to the table with patient organizations, clinicians, and members of the scientific community. This Committee will report its recommendations to the Secretary of HHS. It will ensure that all scientific viewpoints are given consideration at NIH and the CDC and will give a voice to the patient community which has often been left out of the dialogue.

The LIIFT Act will also provide an additional \$14 million over the next two years to the CDC to ensure that the Centers work with researchers around the country to develop better diagnostic tests and to increase its efforts to educate the public about Lyme disease. We also call upon the NIH to place an emphasis on funding the neurologic and vascular aspects of Lyme disease and to recruit a larger pool of researchers.

In addition, this legislation authorizes an additional \$7 million to fund the extraordinary research and eradication efforts already underway at the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine located in the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

I sincerely hope that our colleagues will join Senator DODD and me in this most worthy cause and cosponsor the LIIFT Act. Lyme disease patients and their families have waited too long for a responsive plan of action to address their suffering and needs.

The Tireless efforts of the Lyme patient and advocacy community have been instrumental in raising awareness and mobilizing support for this issue, and for this both Senator DODD and I thank them. I look forward to working with them, Senator DODD, and our colleagues to synthesize the best ideas from last session's Lyme Disease Initiative and the new LIIFT Act, and to enact into law strong legislation to help correct the mistakes of the past, and to give greater hope for the future

by ensuring patients that the Federal Government is doing everything in its power to provide better treatments and ultimately, a cure.

#### WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Ms. LINCOLN. Mr. President, in anticipation of Memorial Day, I rise to honor the 1.1 million Americans who have given their lives for this country. Their lasting legacy is freedom, both here and abroad.

I hope this Memorial Day will be a special one for the World War II generation. Earlier this week, the Senate cleared the way for the construction of the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. The brave men and women of this generation will finally receive the national recognition they deserve.

I want to take time today to acknowledge the contributions of the nearly four million veterans of the Korean War. This issue is a personal one for me. My father is a veteran of the Korean War and I know his generation made tremendous sacrifices. During the course of the war, over 36,000 Americans lost their lives and over 90,000 were wounded.

My father served in Korea as an enlisted man. He left for the 38th Parallel shortly after graduating from high school. When he returned, he married my mother and went to college at the University of Arkansas where he joined the ROTC. Upon graduation, his ROTC unit was activated and Dad left for the Azores for a 12 month assignment.

Like many members of the military, my father didn't endure the sacrifice of service alone. My mother boarded a military flight to the Azores when my sister Mary was only 6 months old to join my father. The military didn't provide housing for married service members on the island and so my father had to make alternative arrangements before my mother and sister could join him. Once reunited, they lived as normal a life as possible in a trailer on an island in the Atlantic thousands of miles from home.

Seldom do we properly recognize the contribution and sacrifice spouses and other family members make when a loved one joins the Armed Forces. So while we honor our nation's veterans on Memorial Day, let us also salute the spouses and other family members who share the sacrifice and burdens of military service.

To commemorate this Memorial Day, I urge my colleagues and all Americans to watch the PBS documentary Korean War Stories. It will air in the evening on Sunday May 27th. This documentary has been sponsored by the Disabled American Veterans as a tribute to those who served during the Korean War.

Our Korean War veterans served this nation with honor, dignity, and dedication, and, in the end, they preserved freedom on the Korean peninsula.

I have the highest respect for the men and women who have served our