

funds to those low-income Americans in greatest need. This mechanism can get funds to low-income Californians reeling from gas and electric price shocks, or Georgians who last summer endured crushing gas bills.

However, LIHEAP funds do not flow to all the places they are needed today but instead where they were needed in 1979 and 1980.

Back then, it was assumed that LIHEAP appropriations would rise, and the allocation mechanism mentioned above has been cast aside. The law states that unless LIHEAP appropriations exceed \$1.975 billion, the elements described above do not control. Instead, the controlling factor is a state's receipt of funds in 1981.

Much can happen in 22 years. For example, from 1980 to 2000: Dallas' population grew from 904,074 to 1,118,580; Clark County, NV's population grew from 463,087 to 1,375,765; Greater Phoenix, Arizona grew from 1,509,000 to 3,072,000.

It would be unfortunate, if we were unable to respond to such situations, in these areas, or to the needs of the citizens of my own State of Louisiana, merely because LIHEAP was locked into the past. We need to address today's problems as well.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I thank Senator LANDRIEU for her comments and commend her for her steadfast commitment to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. She is an outstanding advocate for needy families in Louisiana and across the country. She is correct that the program demands and deserves significantly more funding than it currently receives. I'm sure she's as pleased as I am that LIHEAP's authorization levels are increased in the underlying bill. I look forward to working with her and with her colleagues on the Appropriations Committee to increase funding for this vital program.

Senator LANDRIEU has raised some very important concerns about the program which must be addressed during the re-authorization process. I plan to hold hearings on this issue and invite Senator LANDRIEU to testify. Her proposals will play a very serious role during consideration of LIHEAP re-authorization.

Senator LANDRIEU raises a critical point regarding the vulnerability of our poorest citizens to extreme weather conditions. My State is the home of ground-breaking research on the negative health impacts of extreme temperatures, particularly on poor children with chronic illnesses suffering through cold winters. Research at the Failure to Thrive Clinic at Boston Medical Center has indicated that needy children often start to lose weight and suffer additional problems associated with malnutrition, because their families are spending less of their meager incomes on food and medicine, and more on fuel bills. No family should have to choose between energy, rent, prescription drugs, or food.

LIHEAP helps families meet their home energy needs, so they can meet other immediate priorities, too.

From 1979 to 1998, the Centers for Disease Control reports that there were 7,421 deaths in the United States due to heat stroke. Over the same time period, CDC says 13,970 people died of hypothermia, or exposure to cold. In Massachusetts, people who cannot afford to heat their homes efficiently often employ more dangerous methods of heat—such as using space heaters or simply leaving oven doors open. In winter 2000, an unseasonably cold winter for my state, deaths from home fires due to space heaters surged in Massachusetts. Nearly one out of every five fire deaths in Massachusetts in 2000 was caused by a space heater.

Had LIHEAP been fully funded, and had the program reacted more effectively to crises, we would have been able to save lives. The real tragedy of this debate is that the flexibility already in LIHEAP isn't being utilized. Emergency LIHEAP funding, desperately needed in Louisiana, Massachusetts, and across the country, is still sitting at the White House.

The Bush administration is sitting on \$600 million in LIHEAP funds that can be placed wherever it is needed most. Half of this emergency funding was approved by Congress in the previous fiscal year. LIHEAP applications keep increasing, the economy still struggles, and States are forced to cut LIHEAP benefits for our people—but the administration keeps claiming an "emergency" doesn't exist while thousands of families are still facing the terrible choice of heat, cooling, or food. The Bush administration can reach the families it mentioned in its budget message right now by releasing the emergency funds. Until it does so, the administration can't discuss improving LIHEAP with any credibility.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to thank the senior Senator from Massachusetts, Senator KENNEDY, for his interest and commitment to addressing this issue during reauthorization. I look forward to working closely with Chairman KENNEDY on this matter next year as well as the opportunity to testify before his committee. Throughout the South and the Southwest there is an urgent need for this reform and I am grateful for Senator KENNEDY's support.

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, we have heard hours of debate on the Senate energy bill. One of the messages that we've heard repeated in statements on many different energy related subjects is that energy policy is highly influenced by region. Energy policy that works in one region may not work in another, nor do policy decisions necessarily translate from state to state. For example, Florida's unique topographic, climatic, and geological conditions make it impossible to harness certain forms of renewable energy, such as wind and hydropower. Just as

it would be difficult for the State of Alaska to rely on solar energy during its dark winter months. For these reasons, I have expressed my concern to the chairman of the Energy Committee, Senator BINGAMAN, that a broadly applied renewable portfolio standard will not work optimally for all fifty states of the union. While I remain supportive of expanding the use of renewable energy supplies as an important part of our national energy portfolio, I prefer an approach that treats regions and states with deference to their unique circumstances. An RPS standard cannot be rigid, but must be flexible.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I have been working with my colleagues from Florida for some time to address their concerns with the renewable portfolio standard in the Senate energy bill. Let me say that I think it is critical to increase the use of renewables in order to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels and foreign imports. However, I also appreciate the differences that occur from region to region and State to State. I would like to extend an offer to Senators GRAHAM AND NELSON to work in conference to find some method that will enable a renewable portfolio standard to accomplish the goal of increasing renewables while recognizing the legitimate differences among States. I believe that we can find an appropriate way to help each state include a renewable standard as part of their overall energy production, and I am committed to working with Senator GRAHAM to accomplish this.

Mr. GRAHAM. I want to thank Senator BINGAMAN for his work on the energy bill and for his offer to help address on my concerns with the renewable standard specifically. I look forward to working together on this important provision, and I withdraw my related amendments.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for a period up to 5 minutes.

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

SELECTING DAVID AND ANN SCOVILLE TO RECEIVE THE NATIONAL CRIME VICTIM SERVICE AWARD

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I join all Vermonters in congratulating David and Ann Scoville on receiving the National Crime Victim Service Award of 2002. We thank them for all they do to help the victims of crime and to help the public understand victims' needs.

Nearly 20 years ago the Scovilles suffered every parent's nightmare—the disappearance and murder of their daughter, Patricia. The crime that took her from them remains unsolved to this day—a situation that has compounded the Scovilles' suffering and