

States. Since the original AMBER Plan was established in 1996, 55 modified versions have been adopted at local, regional, and statewide levels. Eighteen States have already implemented statewide plans. It is also a proven success—to date the AMBER Plan has been credited with recovering 30 children.

This bipartisan legislation will authorize the Attorney General, in cooperation with the Secretary of Transportation and the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission to appoint a Justice Department National AMBER Alert coordinator to oversee the Alert's communication network for abducted children. The AMBER Alert Coordinator will work with the States, broadcasters, and law enforcement agencies to set up AMBER plans, serve as a point of contact to supplement existing AMBER plans, and facilitate regional coordination of AMBER alerts.

It also directs the AMBER Alert coordinator, in conjunction with the FCC, local broadcasters, and local law enforcement agencies, to establish voluntary guidelines for minimum standards in determining the criteria for AMBER alerts and for the dissemination of those alerts. As a result, our bipartisan bill helps kidnap victims while preserving flexibility for States in implementing the alert system.

Because developing and enhancing the AMBER alert system is a costly endeavor for States to take on alone, our bipartisan bill establishes two Federal grant programs to share the burden. First, the bill creates a Federal grant program, under the direction of the Secretary of Transportation for statewide notification and communications systems, including electronic message boards and road signs, along highways for the recovery of abducted children. Second, the bill establishes a grant program managed by the Attorney General for the support of AMBER alert communications plans with law enforcement agencies and others in the community.

Our Nation's children, parents and grandchildren deserve our help to stop the disturbing trend of children abductions. I am gratified the Senate has passed the AMBER Alert National Network Act, and I hope the House and the President will act expeditiously on this important piece of legislation to ensure that our communications systems help rescue abducted children from their kidnapers and return them safely to their families.

Mr. President, I thank the Senators who have joined on this measure.

I yield the floor and thank the distinguished Senator from Florida for his courtesy in allowing me to speak. But I hope he will note, in honoring that, I tried to wear a suit as close in color to his as possible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

#### ELECTION REFORM

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, before the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee leaves the floor, I want to call to his attention, which I did a few minutes ago to his colleague, the distinguished chairman of the Rules Committee, that, lo and behold, there are problems with the voting equipment in Florida today during the primary elections. It underscores the fact there is a need for this Congress to enact an election reform package.

In the Senate, we have passed a substantial bill which is a much different version than has been passed by the other body, the House of Representatives. And the conference committee has been unable to come to terms of agreement.

If it can happen in Florida, almost 2 years after the awful experience that the Nation went through in disputed ballots in the general election of November 2000, it can happen anywhere. It was a circumstance which riveted the attention of not only the Nation but the world with ballots that were confusing—ballots that were miscounted because it was difficult to determine the intent of the voter.

In fact, the Florida legislature had responded by providing appropriations so that the various counties, through their supervisors of elections, could modernize and update voting equipment, as well as procedures and providing voter education.

All of that has been in place in the State of Florida, where all of our citizens are so highly sensitive to the fact that their vote might not be counted, as happened in the experience 2 years ago. If it can happen in Florida today, as it literally has on primary election night, then how much more likely will it happen in other States? And how much more do we have to make the case that it is so important for us to get resolution of the differences and come to agreement in an election reform bill for the country as a whole?

That clearly is a matter that is relevant to the moment. As a result of the discrepancies that have happened earlier today in Florida, the Governor has extended the deadline for voting in Florida from 8 o'clock Eastern time to 10 o'clock this evening. So the results of the primary elections will be coming in quite late. Yet it bears to be underscored this is another reason we need to pass the election reform bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California is recognized.

#### IN MEMORY OF THE CALIFORNIA VICTIMS OF 9/11

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Florida for what he said on the need to get homeland security right. He touched on the Coast Guard as an example of where we don't want to lose the function of the Coast Guard that is so important to our

States—those of us who have waterways and oceans and a search-and-rescue element. I could not agree more with that point.

I am also going to be working on the Federal Emergency Management Administration. We know they have come to our rescue many times, and we don't want to lose the ability of that agency to function in a natural disaster, as well as, of course, utilizing them if, God forbid, we have another terrorist attack. I think these are things on which we need to reflect.

I am very pleased that Senator BYRD has slowed us up on considering this bill because it is not about an artificial date; it is about getting it right.

Mr. President, I am here in a very somber mood. We are approximately 15 hours away from the very moment 1 year ago that our Nation was hit, and I want to take just a moment of the Senate's time—maybe 15 minutes—to reflect on that day and, most of all, to remember the Californians we lost that day, numbering 54.

For me, and perhaps for you and many Americans, September has really been a month of excitement and anticipation. I have always loved September. It is the end of the summer, the beginning of a beautiful fall with the changing of the leaves, back to school, and perhaps a little quicker pace, a faster step. September, for most of us, never reminds us of loss, of fear, of shock, of the horrors born of an extreme, unbridled, blind hatred.

In September, we found out about those things. We also found out as a Nation what heroism truly is, how strong and united we can be, how we can set aside differences for the greater good and work together.

The images of September 11 are deep in our minds and deep in our souls. The pain is there, just under the surface. For some of us in America, it is on the surface, and it will always be on the surface for the families who grieve, for the children who will never know a parent—thousands of them—for communities that were decimated.

Today I want to remember those in my State who died on that day. Each was unique. Every one of those planes on that fated day was headed to California. So even though my State was 3,000 miles away from Ground Zero, from the World Trade Center or the Pentagon, we were linked in our sorrow, and we were linked in our outrage.

I am going to read the 54 names, and then I am going to talk a little more about some of the people whose families wanted me to just say a little more about them and show their picture to you.

David Angell; Lynn Angell; David Aoyama; Melissa Barnes; Alan Beaven; Berry Berenson; Dr. Yen Betru; Carol Beug, and her mother Mary Alice Wahlstrom died together on flight 93. Mary Alice is from Utah.

Mark Bingham; Deora Bodley; Touri Bolourchi; Daniel Brandworst, Ronald Gamboa, and their adopted son, David Brandhorst. He was 3 years old.