

for victims in criminal cases for the enforcement of crime victims' rights in Federal jurisdictions, and in States and tribal governments that have laws substantially equivalent to the provisions of chapter 237 of title 18, United States Code; or

(B) other organizations substantially similar to that organization as determined by the Director of the Office for Victims of Crime.

(C) INCREASED RESOURCES TO DEVELOP STATE-OF-THE-ART SYSTEMS FOR NOTIFYING CRIME VICTIMS OF IMPORTANT DATES AND DEVELOPMENTS.—The Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10601 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1404D the following:

“SEC. 1404E. CRIME VICTIMS NOTIFICATION GRANTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director may make grants as provided in section 1404(c)(1)(A) to State, tribal, and local prosecutors' offices, law enforcement agencies, courts, jails, and correctional institutions, and to qualified public or private entities, to develop and implement state-of-the-art systems for notifying victims of crime of important dates and developments relating to the criminal proceedings at issue in a timely and efficient manner, provided that the jurisdiction has laws substantially equivalent to the provisions of chapter 237 of title 18, United States Code.

“(b) INTEGRATION OF SYSTEMS.—Systems developed and implemented under this section may be integrated with existing case management systems operated by the recipient of the grant.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to funds made available under section 1402(d), there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

“(1) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2005; and
“(2) \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

“(d) FALSE CLAIMS ACT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts collected pursuant to sections 3729 through 3731 of title 31, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘False Claims Act’), may be used for grants under this section, subject to appropriation.”.

SEC. 4. REPORTS.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, for each Federal court, shall report to Congress the number of times that a right established in chapter 237 of title 18, United States Code, is asserted in a criminal case and the relief requested is denied and, with respect to each such denial, the reason for such denial, as well as the number of times a mandamus action is brought pursuant to chapter 237 of title 18, and the result reached.

(b) GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE.—

(1) STUDY.—The Comptroller General shall conduct a study that evaluates the effect and efficacy of the implementation of the amendments made by this Act on the treatment of crime victims in the Federal system.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees a report containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to comment on the passage today of the Crime Victims' Rights Act. I am gratified by the overwhelming, bipartisan support for this crucial legislation.

I especially thank the Senator from Arizona, JON KYL, and the Senator

from California, DIANNE FEINSTEIN, for their labor over the past several years on behalf of a constitutional amendment, and for their efforts over the past days to write into Federal law appropriate protections for victims of crime across the country. Without their dedication we would not have this victory.

While a constitutional amendment is preferable, this victims' rights Federal statute represents a significant improvement over the status quo. It ensures that crime victims have the right to fair treatment in the criminal justice system. It will give crime victims new legal standing to enforce their rights in court.

Too often, victims are shut out of the criminal justice process. They aren't informed of hearings, plea deals, trial dates and sentencing, or of parole hearings once their attacker is convicted.

The system rightly strives to protect the rights of defendants. But too often it overlooks the rights of the victims.

Take, for example, the case of Jeanne Brykalski of Knoxville, TN. Nine years ago, Jeanne lost both of her parents in a double homicide.

It was a Friday night, Jeanne's parents, Lester and Carol Dotts, went out for dinner. When they returned, they surprised three burglars in the act of looting their home.

Jeanne's mother was shot seven times, once at point-blank range in the head. Her father was shot six times, first in the neck and then repeatedly while he lay crumpled on the floor. The assailants seized Jeanne's mother's purse. And in a final grisly act, stole her father's wallet from his back pocket as he lay dying.

Jeanne's parents would have celebrated their 45th anniversary that summer.

She tells my office:

Something like this you never get over. At first you don't sleep. You can't sleep, because when you close your eyes, horrible images flood your mind. When you finally can sleep, that's when the nightmares come.

Jeanne found out about the first of the three perpetrators' public hearings on the front page of the local paper. As Jeanne recounts it, one morning before work, her husband went outside to fetch the paper from the delivery box. He came back in and tossed it on the kitchen table, telling her, “You'll want to read this.”

Says Jeanne:

I saw the headline, and of course had to keep reading. And then I found out for the first time the gruesome details of how my parents were murdered. I completely fell apart. And I still had to go to work that day.

Jeanne says it took a long time for the justice system to acknowledge her need to be a part of the process. In fact, on three occasions, she showed up for hearings that she was never told were canceled. The youngest of the perpetrators was plea bargained without Jeanne and her husband being informed.

Her experience with the system led her to become a volunteer for the East Tennessee Victims' Rights Task Force.

Says Jeanne:

All we want is equality and fair play in the courtroom. We want to be treated with courtesy and respect. I don't think that's too much to ask for.

Mr. President, nor do I. And that is why I strongly support the Crime Victims' Rights Act and look forward to getting this bill to the President's desk.

My home State of Tennessee has a Victims Bill of Rights. It was passed in November of 1998.

Anna Whalley, clinical coordinator of the Shelby County Crime Victims Center, tells my office that the law has improved the status of victims in the Tennessee justice system. Judges are now getting used to seeing victims in their courtrooms and are making their courtrooms more comfortable and accommodating.

Because the Tennessee law does not provide funding, however, victims continue to fall through the cracks. There simply is not enough money to stay on top of all of the cases and keep victims informed throughout the judicial process.

The Crime Victims' Rights Act wisely addresses this problem. It provides legal assistance grants to help local law enforcement agencies promote victims' rights.

It also authorizes over \$97 million over the next 5 years to broadly carry out the legislation's goals.

Mr. President, we are not all the way there. Our ultimate goal is to pass a victims' rights constitutional amendment. But this legislation represents a significant leap forward.

I thank my colleagues for their support today.

As we all agree, victims have rights, too.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will the Senator from New Mexico yield to me for a question?

Mr. DOMENICI. Yes, I yield.

Mr. REID. Senator LANDRIEU has been waiting for the vote to end. She has to pick up her children, but she first wants to speak about her children for a couple of minutes. Would the Senator allow her 2 minutes prior to beginning his speech?

Mr. DOMENICI. Of course.

Ms. LANDRIEU. I thank the Senator from New Mexico, and I thank my colleague from Nevada.

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY

Ms. LANDRIEU. As a wonderful Senator from New Mexico, and also as a father of many girls and a grandfather, I

know the Senator can appreciate the day we are celebrating today, which is Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. We have literally hundreds of young people who are in the Chamber today. They have been around the Senate and the House celebrating this very special day, seeing their parents at work in the Senate and in the Capitol, not only as elected officials but as the staffers and support staff.

I have 20 young ladies with me today, nieces and friends from Louisiana, from Alabama, and from the Washington area. I am going to submit all of their names for the RECORD to show that they spent a day working in the Senate with me and with some of the other Senators and have seen firsthand the work that goes on.

I want to acknowledge MS Magazine Foundation that started Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day to thank them for organizing this effort where there are thousands, maybe perhaps millions, of young people who have taken a day out of their school work to go to the various places where Americans are working to contribute to making this country of ours a better country and this world a better place.

As we celebrate Earth Day today, which is also very important as we focus on the environment, I wanted to acknowledge this day. I thank my friend from New Mexico for giving me this time and I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the names of these young ladies and thank them for being a part of this special day and taking their time to come and learn about the workings of the Senate.

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

From St. Richards School: Mary Claire Logue and Catherine Logue, Monroe, LA; from St. Dominic School: Erica Sensenbrenner, New Orleans, LA; from St Ignatius School: Lindsey Seiter, Mobile, AL; from Tchefuncte Middle School: Lauren Cook, New Orleans, LA; from Louise McGehee School: Meredith Chehardy, New Orleans, LA; from Spring Hill Elementary School: Caroline Hudson, Washington, DC; from Georgetown Day: Rachel Jerome, Washington, DC; from Georgetown Day: Hayley Gray, McLean, VA; from St Scholastica Academy Trinity School: Gabrielle Klein and Stephanie Harkness, Mandeville, LA; from Our Lady of the Lake School: Elise Ganacheaux, New Orleans, LA; from St. Catherine of Sienna School: Sarah Parent, New Orleans, LA; from Isidore Newman School: Jordan Warshauer, New Orleans, LA; from Louise McGehee School: Carol Irene Gelderman, New Orleans, LA; from Louise McGehee School: Catherine Cochran, New Orleans, LA; from Jackson Academy: Storey Wilson, Baton Rouge, LA; from Bradley Hills Elementary: Hannah Sherman, Bethesda, MD; from Pyle Middle School: Casey Thevenot, Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I have up to 10 minutes, but I do not believe I will use that, if anybody is wondering.

I rise to speak about a disaster that has occurred within the last 24 hours in the country of North Korea. We now have on the wire service recognition of the fact that there was a train wreck in North Korea where two trains ran into each other. It appears that between 1,000 and 3,000 people were killed. One report says 1,000 and another report says 3,000. In the meantime, the North Koreans have cut off the telephone lines to the area and have closed the border, so considering the nature of the country, I do not know when we will find out how many.

The reason I rose to talk about it is because the substances that we have been told were in those trains do not come close to the explosive power of liquefied natural gas. They are some kind of a liquefied petroleum and another product like propane, and it must have been sufficient power for this to ignite and blow up.

Why would I bring this subject up on the Senate floor? Well, I say to my colleagues, the Nation we live in has been on such an absurd path with reference to diversifying our energy resources that we are currently thinking about using liquefied natural gas in large quantities to take the place of natural gas, which is getting higher and higher in demand and less and less in terms of supply. I believe we ought to get on with producing as much natural gas from our own sources as possible. I believe the natural gas from the State of Alaska ought to be brought on board and we ought to help pay for the pipeline which will be the largest and most expensive construction job in our history, but it will transport voluminous quantities of natural gas and it will be ours. It will not be liquefied natural gas from Algeria, Tunisia, or wherever it comes from.

We are inviting the opposite. We are inviting States, principally in the eastern part of the United States—at least it is not the West or the South again. But I would like to make sure other parts of the country understand that if they have been holding out and not wanting us to get this energy bill passed because they think this is some easier way—like we can solve this with wind instead of natural gas—you know it just is not true. We cannot produce enough wind energy to take the place of the natural gas shortage we are going to have if we don't get on with producing it as fast as we can, in as large quantities as we can, and from safe sources, safe in terms of reliability and safe in terms of the environment.

We are going to hear more about this. I am sorry that I come to the Senate floor with such drastic statements about energy and the destruction of people and property because of this collision involving energy sources. But I can tell you, what the Committee on

Energy and Natural Resources has been suggesting we do is so much less risky than this, this fuel that exploded, that I almost wonder what is it going to take to bring us to our senses.

There are Northern and Eastern States saying, once they hear about LNG, they don't want it either. But I can tell you, there is not going to be any gas for parts of our country and it is not going to be imported from the West to the East; it is going to be brought to where it is needed. We are going to see people who are now talking with permittees who want to build plants, refineries, bases where you can harbor and hold liquefied natural gas.

Unless one of those trains had LNG, and I don't think it did, we haven't seen anything yet. If you killed 1,000 and wounded 1,000 and blew up a town with two trains running into each other and one of them was not LNG, then whatever we know about will be less volatile than LNG. So we could be looking at a more disastrous situation.

I also suggest while we are talking about terrorism, just think of that. If we have to bring in shipload after shipload of natural gas, just think of what we are going to have to do to make sure it is not part of a terrorist plan to blow up part of our country.

I for one hope we don't have to bring very much in, but I am sure, with what has been going on—and I am sure the occupant of the chair shares my concern—we ought to be very careful. We ought to take on the issue of, can we get some nuclear powerplants built in a safer way than in the past? Can we produce some truly clean coal-burning plants? We can bring solar, wind, and geothermal on. We can give them subsidies, all that are in this bill which we will not bring up today.

I think for those who are looking at that terrible country, terrible in terms of the nature of the existence of the people in North Korea, we can do nothing but shake our heads in fear and trepidation. I just finished reading a book about North Korea. As a Senator from a free country, to just read what is going on in that country just scares me to death. How the people can be so ravaged, so disgraced as human beings by that regime, and then to have something like this happen to them makes me terribly unhappy to be part of leadership in this world, that we can still let that eyesore of terrible proportions exist. Here is another one—3,000 people. Just absolutely pathetic.

I yield the floor. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.