

to be housed, fed, and cared for in Federal, or federally contracted, correctional facilities housing women, in programs specifically designed to benefit mother and child.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to thank my colleagues Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY for their first-class work on the Fiscal Year 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. They have written legislation that strengthens communities against crime and terrorism, provides important research dollars for science and technology, and protects jobs here in the United States against unlawful trade practices.

Unfortunately, we know from Federal crime statistics that violent crime is on the rise in the United States. To combat this increase, we must make a commitment to boost Federal support for State and local law enforcement. This bill contains \$2.66 billion for community police departments, \$26 million to hire an additional 100 FBI agents to fight violent crime, and \$5 million for the FBI to create a task force on gang violence. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, we have asked our local law enforcement officials to assume yet another role in protecting citizens, namely homeland security. I believe that the Federal Government must step in and provide a share of the resources to community policing for their efforts.

I also commend my colleagues for the impressive funding package they have devised for science and technology. This year, along with Senator BOND, I helped lead the charge in the Senate for an increase in the National Science Foundation's budget. This bill includes over \$6.5 billion for the NSF, with a substantial \$850 million for educational programs to develop the next generation of leaders in science, technology, and math. The future of innovation rests upon our ability to recruit more talented students who want to pursue careers in science and engineering. Looking at the challenges the United States faces in maintaining global economic leadership, a comparatively small investment now in the National Science Foundation will provide exponential benefits for years to come.

Finally, I commend the adoption of Senator MIKULSKI and Senator SHELBY's amendment to add \$1 billion to NASA's budget for this upcoming fiscal year. Along with several other Senators, I was a proud co-sponsor of this amendment, and I laud its adoption by unanimous consent. The additional funding will enable NASA to revive its basic science programs, such as its earth science and aeronautics research initiatives. Global warming is a reality, and NASA's capabilities make it uniquely positioned to provide the world's scientific community with vital data about changes in Earth's atmosphere and the subsequent impact on climate. Furthermore, we must remember that there are two "As" in

NASA, and forgetting the "Aeronautics" component of the agency's mission would be a grave mistake. Once again, I congratulate my colleagues on a well formulated piece of legislation, and I urge the President to sign this bill into law.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE MONTH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of Domestic Violence Month. During the month of October, I urge my fellow colleagues and Americans to join me in committing to end violence in our homes. It is my hope that we can stand together this month and show abusers that we will not tolerate their actions.

We must never forget that domestic violence is a wide spread ailment with devastating implications. Domestic violence affects not only the victims of abuse, but their families and communities as well. The consequences of domestic abuse do not end with the violence. Victims lucky enough to escape their abusers are sometimes left with no home, no money, and no means to support themselves. And most unfortunately, children are often caught in middle of this tragedy. With as many as three million women experiencing abuse a year, it is clear we must do more to prevent these crimes and help those who are victims.

That is why I would like to recognize several organizations that have done extraordinary work to protect the victims of domestic violence in Nevada. For almost 20 years, the Shade Tree has provided shelter to abused women, and their families. Now, Shade Tree has taken on another aspect of domestic violence. On October 9, 2007, Shade Tree opened Noah's Animal House, a shelter for the animals of battered women. Shade Tree realized that animal abuse occurs in 85 percent of homes from which battered women arrive. Of those, 20 percent refuse to leave their abusers without their pets. Shade Tree's commitment to ending domestic violence knows no boundaries, and I know its impact on countless lives will continue.

The Safe Nest is another important organization that has made tremendous strides in ending domestic violence in Nevada. Safe Nest recognizes the importance of addressing all sides of domestic violence and helps with a range of services from court advocacy to crisis intervention. Safe Nest also serves Nevada by sheltering victims and educating the public. On October 19, Safe Nest will hold its annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month

luncheon. On this day, I hope that Nevada and our Nation will recognize Safe Nest's years of success and hard work.

Finally, I would like to recognize the S.A.F.E.—Stop Abuse in the Family Environment—House for their work. S.A.F.E. House is a community based organization that provides counseling, advocacy, and intervention for victims of domestic abuse. In addition, S.A.F.E. House collaborates with organizations across Nevada to search for ways to end domestic violence. For example, on October 25, S.A.F.E. House and the state chapter of National Organization for Women will team up to bring awareness to domestic violence. I am pleased to commend S.A.F.E. House for motivating hundreds of Nevadans to take action in their community.

It is also important to recognize thousands of other organizations in Nevada and our Nation that have committed time, labor, and financial resources to help victims of domestic abuse. Please join me in commending the dedicated efforts of those individuals who work each day to stop aggression in our homes. With their example in mind, I hope that Congress can reflect and take action during this important month. I urge all Americans to participate in Domestic Violence Month activities and pledge to make this issue their own.

#### NATIONAL LATINO AIDS AWARENESS DAY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, October 15 is the fifth annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day, NLAAD. I rise in observance of this important day to increase our understanding of the Latino community's struggle with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As we draw attention to the devastating impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis on the Nation's Latino population, let us recognize the resulting call to action as well.

When America first observed the annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day in 2003, we took stock of the dismaying statistics on HIV/AIDS among Latinos. Even though they comprise 14 percent of the U.S. population, they accounted for 19 percent of the new HIV infections estimated to occur in the country each year. Over 71,000 Latinos were thought to be living with AIDS, constituting one-fifth of all AIDS patients in America. Of those, teens and women were among the Latino population subgroups considered especially hard hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

These troubling disparities persist today. Latinos continue to be over-represented among HIV/AIDS patients, the greater barriers they face in accessing care have not gone away, and too many remain in the dark about the importance of prevention. While advances in medical technology have improved the outcome for HIV/AIDS patients in general, these benefits are also not reaching Latinos on par with the rest of the population. Underlying