

has been a leading voice advocating for more Americans to become involved in national service. Committing to serve one's nation is an honor, and I join Senator Wofford in calling on more Americans to make this commitment.

As our world becomes interconnected, more Americans will need to interact with those who live outside our borders. Peace Corps volunteers learn more than 250 languages, which provides them the skills to compete globally as well as assist the U.S. Government in national security areas where critical language skills are essential. Many Peace Corps volunteers go on to serve in Congress, the executive branch, and the Foreign Service. I salute the Peace Corps for its tremendous work and the dedication of its volunteers who have not hesitated to help improve our world. On this week marking the 47th anniversary of the founding of the Peace Corps, I call on everyone to join me in celebrating its historic achievements.

PRENATALLY AND POSTNATALLY DIAGNOSED CONDITIONS AWARE- NESS ACT

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, I am excited and encouraged that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension today voted unanimously to pass the Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act. This legislation will help parents receiving the news that their unborn child may be born with a disability by supplying them with current and reliable information about the many services and support networks available. This information will also be made available to parents whose children were diagnosed at birth or up until 12 months of age.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists now recommends that the screening procedure used to detect Down syndrome be offered to all pregnant women, not just those over the age of 35, as was recommended in the past. According to the American Journal of Medical Genetics, 80–90 percent of patients who are told that the child they are carrying has Down syndrome choose to have abortions. The percentage is similarly high for children with other prenatally diagnosable conditions. A recent study by Prenatal Diagnosis actually puts the figure at between 91 to 93 percent.

I believe that one of the main reasons for these disturbingly high figures is that many people in society still believe the outdated stereotypes and misconceptions that continue to exist about people with disabilities. In a study done by Louis Harris and Associates, the vast majority of adults with even the most severe disabilities reported being “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with their lives. The same study shows that there is virtually no difference between the proportion of Americans with disabilities

and those without who are married and who have children. Many people with even the most severe disabilities live independently, have jobs, get married, have children, and pay taxes.

Parent support groups and disability advocacy groups have tried to reach out to parents who have received prenatal diagnoses of various conditions, but they often have difficulty getting practical information about raising a child with a disability and information about available services and resources to new and expecting parents. This bill will help to remediate this situation in five concrete ways.

First, the bill establishes a toll-free resource telephone hotline parents can call after they have been given a prenatal or postnatal diagnosis for their child. The bill also calls for the expansion of the leading information clearinghouse on disability, so that it can more effectively provide parents with accurate, up-to-date information on their child's condition along with available resources and services. The bill also provides for the expansion and development of national and local parent support programs and disability advocacy groups, so that they can more effectively reach out to new parents. A national registry of parents willing to adopt children with these disabilities would also be established under this bill. Finally, this bill will help create awareness and education programs for health care providers who give parents the results of these tests.

It is difficult, sometimes overwhelming, for new and expecting parents to receive the news that their new baby or their unborn child will have a disability. I hope that this bill will provide these parents with the information and support they so desperately need during this critical time. I hope this information will encourage parents that their child can live a meaningful and fulfilling life and that this bill will heighten society's awareness of the capabilities value and worth of people with disabilities.

I would like to thank Senator KENNEDY, Senator ENZI, and all other members of the HELP Committee who have worked so diligently with my office to get this important legislation past the HELP Committee. I am hopeful that this bill will soon receive consideration by the full Senate. The quicker my colleagues and I move to pass this bill, the more people we can help with these critical services and information.

GREEN CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am proud to join my friend Senator SNOWE and our colleagues Senator PRYOR, Senator COLLINS, and Senator KERRY in introducing the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act. This legislation is a bipartisan effort to promote the efforts of some of the most brilliant minds in academia, government, and industry to both reduce the

environmental impacts of common chemical processes and to foster the development of a new generation of environmentally responsible chemical products.

My fellow cosponsors and I seek to help the chemical industry reduce its use and production of hazardous substances and the overall effect on the environment of the business of chemistry. As it was in the past when Senator SNOWE and I previously introduced legislation to promote “Green Chemistry,” this legislation is supported by the chemical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology industries and academic institutions because it is designed to hasten the attainment of a goal we all share: making the production of the chemical products we need in ways not detrimental to the environment using engineering processes that save both money and the planet. The products and engineering processes we believe will be developed will produce benefits across the entire economy.

What we call “green chemistry” is nothing more than what every industry in the United States should strive to be. Chemical companies employing green chemistry techniques will challenge their best scientists, engineers, and product developers to make new products that are better suited to the task for which they are created than the products they will replace using state-of-the-art manufacturing that minimizes or completely eliminates both the use of environmentally unsustainable substances as inputs or results in environmentally unsustainable substances as byproducts. Our purpose in introducing this legislation is to make certain that the nascent green technology revolution does not bypass the chemical industry by providing significant and ongoing support for green chemistry research, development, demonstration, education, and technology transfer.

When enacted, the Green Chemistry Research and Development Act will create a Federal Interagency Working Group—made up of representatives from the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency—to fund and oversee research through merit-based grants to universities, industry, and nonprofit organizations to promote the development and adoption of green chemistry processes and products. Further, the Interagency Working Group will help expand education, training in, and the flow of information about sustainable chemical engineering, including development of green chemistry curricula for undergraduate and graduate students. Finally, Federal resources in funding and technical expertise will seek to identify barriers to the commercialization of the products of a rejuvenated, more environmentally responsible domestic chemical industry.

These are challenging times for the domestic chemical industry. High