

attacks. At a time when some were calling for us to sacrifice our rights in the fight against terrorism, PAT LEAHY said that we could be both safe and free.

He worked to include important civil liberties protections in the PATRIOT Act. He led the opposition to controversial Bush administration policies relating to torture, indefinite detention, and the warrantless surveillance of innocent American citizens. He was one of the first Members of Congress to speak out against the Guantánamo Bay detention center. Chairman LEAHY led the fight against the Military Commissions Act. He was particularly eloquent and persistent in defending the right to habeas corpus and he was vindicated when the Supreme Court held that the habeas-stripping provision of the Military Commissions Act is unconstitutional.

Chairman LEAHY has also been a giant in the Senate when it comes to judicial nominations. He has fought to preserve the integrity and independence of our Federal judiciary throughout his career and long tenure on the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Despite the highly charged atmosphere that has beset the judicial nominations process in recent years, Chairman LEAHY handled judicial nominations fairly and expeditiously during his chairmanship of the Senate Judiciary Committee under President George W. Bush. In the approximately 3 years in which he chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee under President Bush, 168 of the President's judicial nominees were confirmed. By comparison, during the 4-year period under President Bush when Republicans had a majority in the Senate and chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee, only 158 judicial nominees were confirmed.

Chairman LEAHY also led the fight to enhance the security of Federal judges and courthouses in the wake of several tragic incidents of violence our Nation witnessed in recent years. This record is a tribute to Chairman LEAHY's deep respect for the Federal bench and his commitment to bipartisanship in the advice and consent process.

Senator LEAHY has fought for human rights at home and abroad. As the lead sponsor of the Innocence Protection Act, he has worked to ensure that innocent people are not subject to the death penalty. He has been the foremost champion in Congress in the campaign against antipersonnel landmines, authoring the first legislation by any government to ban the export of landmines.

I want to pay tribute particularly to Chairman LEAHY for creating the Human Rights and the Law subcommittee in January 2007 and for giving me the opportunity to chair this subcommittee during the 110th Congress. I was proud to work with Senator LEAHY in the 110th Congress to enact the Genocide Accountability Act, which makes it a crime to commit genocide anywhere in the world; the

Child Soldiers Accountability Act, which makes it a crime and violation of immigration law to recruit or use child soldiers anywhere in the world; and the Trafficking in Persons Accountability Act, which makes it a crime to engage in human trafficking anywhere in the world.

Mr. President, America is fortunate to have Senator PATRICK LEAHY's leadership at this challenging moment in our history. I look forward to working with him as we strive to restore the rule of law at home and to reclaim America's role as a champion for human rights around the world.

ADOPTION INCENTIVES PROGRAM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last year, working together, Republicans and Democrats produced one of the most far-reaching improvements to our Nation's child welfare system in over a decade. The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 included a number of policies designed to increase the number of adoptions of special needs children in foster care.

Unfortunately, the Omnibus appropriations bill that the Senate is considering this week includes a provision that overrides the Adoption Incentives improvements included in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008.

I have been told that it was not the intention of the drafters of the Omnibus appropriations bill to override the improvements to the Adoption Incentives Program and the Democratic leadership intends to correct this problem in the future.

The right thing would be to correct this problem in the underlying bill and I filed an amendment that would have accomplished this. Unfortunately, I was told by the Democratic leadership that they would not allow the bill to be changed at all.

I am not happy that I was not permitted to fix this problem in the omnibus bill. This unfortunate outcome, where real progress in increasing the number of adoptions is potentially jeopardized, highlights the perils of rushing legislation through in a partisan manner and not consulting with the committees of jurisdiction.

Mr. BAUCUS. I thank Senator GRASSLEY. We worked together on the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 in what was a model of bipartisan and bicameral legislating. I do not want to see any provisions of that work jeopardized.

While I am certain that our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee in no way mean to jeopardize the adoption incentive provisions of the Fostering Connections and Increasing Adoptions Act, I also feel that communication with the Finance Committee would have led to an easy remedy. My staff, working with the Congressional Research Service, caught

the error as soon as the language was introduced and made available.

We need to work together toward a solution. I am prepared to introduce legislation to correct the error and preserve the work of the Finance Committee, Ways and Means Committee, and child welfare community.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I do want the members of the adoption community to be assured that I will do everything in my power to make sure this correction is made and that adoption incentive funds are made available. I will be happy to introduce legislation with my partner on the Senate Finance Committee, the chairman of that committee, Senator BAUCUS. We can base the legislation on my amendment to reinstate the adoption incentives improvements.

IDAHOANS SPEAK OUT ON HIGH ENERGY PRICES

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, in mid-June, I asked Idahoans to share with me how high energy prices are affecting their lives, and they responded by the hundreds. The stories, numbering well over 1,200, are heartbreaking and touching. While energy prices have dropped in recent weeks, the concerns expressed remain very relevant. To respect the efforts of those who took the opportunity to share their thoughts, I am submitting every e-mail sent to me through an address set up specifically for this purpose to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This is not an issue that will be easily resolved, but it is one that deserves immediate and serious attention, and Idahoans deserve to be heard. Their stories not only detail their struggles to meet everyday expenses, but also have suggestions and recommendations as to what Congress can do now to tackle this problem and find solutions that last beyond today. I ask unanimous consent to have today's letters printed in the RECORD.

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

I am sure you are fully aware of the impact high gasoline prices is having on Idahoans. A large portion of the population are on fixed incomes that do not rise with inflation or energy costs. Another large portion of the population barely earned enough to feed their families when gas was \$1.25 a gallon. Many of those same Americans are still earning the same or slightly better wages, though inflation and higher energy costs have effectively caused a net reduction in their incomes.

Personally, it is hard to find work. I have turned in dozens of applications without even a single interview. So, I decided to get my degree online, since it was out of the question to commute to a campus because of fuel costs. My best friend commuted for his entire two years of community college, roughly 60 miles round trip every day. However, it is prohibitively expensive to do so now. I am also self-employed, doing whatever work I can find, though it never amounts to much more than paying what expenses I do have. Lately I have been selling firewood to help cover the increases in gas prices, since I am a small-scale miner/gold prospector and