their staffs, Kimberly Barnes-O'Connor and Rebecca Jones with Senator KASSEBAUM, Michael Iskowitz and Jeffrey Teitz with Senator KENNEDY, Jane Lowenson and Brook Byers-Goldman with Senator DODD, and Stephanie Monroe and Townsend Lange of my staff. Thank you all for the hard work you have done on this legislation.

Mr. President, at this time I would like to ask unanimous consent that a colloquy between myself and Senator DODD on the issue of medical neglect be inserted into the RECORD as if read.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise in support of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act of 1996. I am very pleased that this has been a bipartisan effort. This bill comes at a very critical time. Just last week the results of the National Incidence Study conducted by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect showed an alarming increase in the incidence of child abuse and neglect. Since 1986 the number of abused and neglected children has almost doubled. Physical abuse has nearly doubled and sexual abuse has more than doubled. Additionally the study indicates that children from families with incomes below $15,000 are 22 times more likely to be victims of child abuse and neglect than are those children from families with incomes above $30,000.

Mr. President, I am concerned that the welfare reform bill signed into law last month may lead to an increase in cases of child abuse and neglect. That legislation left no safety net for children whose parents had reached their 5-year limit on public assistance. I intend to watch this issue very closely.

The good news is that today we are asking the Senate to consider, by unanimous consent, the reauthorization of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, S. 919. First enacted in 1974, this legislation provides, among other things, Federal financial assistance for identifying, preventing, and treating child abuse and neglect. This bill affirms a clear Federal role in addressing prevention and treatment of child abuse. Further, it recognizes the importance of Federal leadership in funding research, training, technical assistance, and data collection to help aid the States to do their jobs better. It also continues support to States to improve child protective service systems.

Finally, I am pleased that the bill reauthorizes and enhances the Family Resource and Support Center Program that I authored in 1990 and expanded in the Human Services Act in 1994. The Family Resource Services are essential to prevention and allow families to meet their needs to avoid problems that propel them into crisis down the road.

I thank Senator COATS for all his hard work and cooperation on the reauthorization of this bill. I am very pleased that this has been a bipartisan effort.

Mr. President, it is my understanding that under CAPTA, States have been allowed to exempt parents from prosecution on grounds of medical neglect if the parent was employing alternative means of healing as part of the parent's religious practice. CAPTA also has required States to have procedures in place to report, investigate and intervene in situations where children are being denied medical care needed to prevent harm.

Mr. COATS. That is correct. The two provisions you have described have caused problems for some States. The Department of Health and Human Services has moved to disqualify certain States from CAPTA funding based on the State's accommodation of the religious treatment in lieu of medical treatment.

Mr. DODD. And it is my further understanding that we have clarified that issue in the Rule of Construction in the bill before us.

Mr. COATS. Yes, we have. After a very lengthy negotiation we have reached a compromise which will both protect children in need of medical intervention while ensuring that the first amendment rights of parents to practice their religion are not infringed upon. Under this bill, no parent or legal guardian is required to provide a child with medical service or treatment against their religious beliefs, nor is any State required to find, or prohibited from finding, abuse or neglect cases where the parent or guardian relied solely or partially upon spiritual means rather than medical treatment in accordance with their religious beliefs.

Mr. DODD. Does the bill address the State's authority to pursue any legal remedies necessary to provide medical care or treatment when such care or treatment is necessary to prevent or remedy serious harm to the child, or to prevent the withholding of medically indicated treatment from children with life-threatening conditions?

Mr. COATS. Yes it does. In addition, the bill gives States sole discretion over case-by-case determinations relating to the exercise of authority in this area. No State is foreclosed from considering parents use of treatment by spiritual means. No State is required to prosecute parents in this area. But every State must have in place the authority to intervene to protect children in need. Let me also state that nothing in this bill should be interpreted as discouraging the reporting of suspected incidences of medical neglect to child protection services, where warranted.

Mr. DODD. I also see that a new section has been added that requires the States to include in their State laws, as statutory grounds for the termination of parental rights, convictions of parents for certain specified crimes against children. It also eliminates a Federal mandate that States must seek reunification of the convicted parent with surviving children. Given the crimes that have been specified—murder, voluntary manslaughter, and felony assault—it appears that what we are addressing is a parent who deliberately takes the life or seriously injures his child.

Mr. COATS. That is correct. This section is intended to give the States flexibility in this area by not requiring them to seek to reunify a parent convicted of a serious and violent crime against his child, with that surviving child or other children. States may still seek to reunify the family but will no longer be required to do so by Federal law. Second, the bill provides that these very serious crimes should be grounds in State law for the termination of parental rights. Any decision, however, to terminate parental rights, even in these cases, is entirely a State issue and remains so under this bill.

Mr. DODD. Would States be allowed to consider a parent's motive when deciding to terminate parental rights or to seek reunification of that family? And could this include sincerely held religious beliefs of the parent?

Mr. COATS. Yes. Since this is entirely a matter of State law, States are free to consider whatever mitigating circumstances they would like.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it is my understanding that concerns have been raised regarding outreach services that grantees must make to various communities. It is my understanding that when grantees engage in outreach activities, they must ensure that they maximize the participation of racial and ethnic minorities and members of underserved or underrepresented groups. I just want to ascertain that this list envisions inclusion of immigrant communities.

Mr. COATS. That is correct.

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur to the amendment of the House.

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

WATER DESALINIZATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on (S. 811) a bill to authorize research into the desalinization and reclamation of water and authorize a program for States, cities, or qualifying agencies desiring to own and operate a water desalinization or reclamation facility to develop such facilities, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 811) entitled ''An Act to authorize research into the desalinization and reclamation of water and authorize a program for States, cities, or qualifying agencies desiring to own and operate a water desalinization or reclamation facility to develop such facilities, and for other purposes'', do pass with the following amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause, and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Water Desalination Act of 1996''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) DESALINATION OR DESALTING.—The terms ''desalination'' or ''desalting'' mean the use of any process or technique for the removal and, when feasible, adaptation to beneficial use, of organic and inorganic elements and compounds from saline or biologically impaired waters, by itself or in conjunction with other processes.

(2) SALINE WATER.—The term ''saline water'' means sea water, brackish water, and other mineralized or chemically impaired water.

(3) UNITED STATES.—The term ''United States'' means the States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

(4) USABLE WATER.—The term ''usable water'' means water of a high quality suitable for environmental enhancement, agricultural, industrial, municipal, and other beneficial consumptive or nonconsumptive uses.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF RESEARCH AND STUDIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to determine the most cost-effective and technologically efficient means by which usable water can be produced from saline water or water otherwise impaired or contaminated, the Secretary is authorized to award grants and to enter into contracts, to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, to conduct, encourage, and assist in the financing of research to develop processes for converting saline water into water suitable for beneficial uses. Awards of research grants and contracts under this section shall be made on the basis of a competitive, merit-reviewed process. Research and study topics authorized by this section include—

(1) investigating desalination processes;

(2) ascertaining the optimum mix of investment and operating costs;

(3) determining the best designs for different conditions of operation;

(4) investigating methods of increasing the economic efficiency of desalination processes through dual-purpose co-facilities with other processes involving the use of water;

(5) conducting or contracting for technical work, including the design, construction, and testing of pilot systems and test beds, to develop desalting processes and concepts;

(6) studying methods for the recovery of byproducts resulting from desalination to offset the costs of treatment and to reduce environmental impacts from those byproducts; and

(7) salinity modeling and toxicity analysis of brine discharges, cost reduction strategies for constructing and operating desalination facilities, and the horticultural effects of desalinated water used for irrigation.

(b) PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—As soon as practicable and within three years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall recommend to Congress desalination demonstration projects or full-scale desalination projects to carry out the purposes of this Act and to further evaluate and implement the results of research and studies conducted under the authority of this section. Recommendations for projects shall be accompanied by reports on the engineering and economic feasibility of proposed projects and their environmental impacts.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE OTHERS.—In carrying out research and studies authorized in this section, the Secretary may engage the necessary personnel, industrial or engineering firms, Federal laboratories, water resources research and technology institutes, other facilities, and educational institutions suitable to conduct investigations and studies authorized under this section.

(d) ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.—In carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that at least three separate technologies are evaluated and demonstrated for the purposes of accomplishing desalination.

SEC. 4. DESALINATION DEMONSTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to further demonstrate the feasibility of desalination processes investigated either independently or in research conducted pursuant to section 3, the Secretary shall administer and conduct a demonstration and development program for water desalination and related activities, including the following:

(1) DESALINATION PLANTS AND MODULES.—Conduct or contract for technical work, including the design, construction, and testing of plants and modules to develop desalination processes and concepts.

(2) BYPRODUCTS.—Study methods for the marketing of byproducts resulting from the desalting of water to offset the costs of treatment and to reduce environmental impacts of those byproducts.

(3) ECONOMIC SURVEYS.—Conduct economic studies and surveys to determine present and prospective costs of producing water for beneficial purposes in various locations by desalination processes compared to other methods.

(b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—Federal participation in desalination activities may be conducted through cooperative agreements, including cost-sharing agreements, with non-Federal public utilities and State and local governmental agencies and other entities, in order to develop recommendations for Federal participation in processes and plants utilizing desalting technologies for the production of water.

SEC. 5. AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.

All information from studies sponsored or funded under authority of this Act shall be considered public information.

SEC. 6. TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE.

The Secretary may—

(1) accept technical and administrative assistance from States and public or private agencies in connection with studies, surveys, location, construction, operation, and other work relating to the desalting of water, and

(2) enter into contracts or agreements stating the purposes for which the assistance is contributed and providing for the sharing of costs between the Secretary and any such agency.

SEC. 7. COST SHARING.

The Federal share of the cost of a research, study, or demonstration project or a desalination development project or activity carried out under this Act shall not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project or research or study activity. A Federal contribution in excess of 25 percent for a project carried out under this Act may not be made unless the Secretary determines that the project is not feasible without such increased Federal contribution. The Secretary shall prescribe appropriate procedures to implement the provisions of this section. Costs of operation, maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of facilities funded under the authority of this Act shall be non-Federal responsibilities.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) SECTION 3.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 3 of this Act $5,000,000 per year for fiscal years 1997 through 2002. Of these amounts, up to $1,000,000 in each fiscal year may be awarded to institutions of higher education, including United States-Mexico binational research foundations and interuniversity research programs established by the two countries, for research grants without any cost-sharing requirement.

(b) SECTION 4.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 4 of this Act $25,000,000 for fiscal years 1997 through 2002.

SEC. 9. CONSULTATION.

In carrying out the provisions of this Act, the Secretary shall consult with the heads of other Federal agencies, including the Secretary of the Army, which have experience in conducting desalination research or operating desalination facilities. The authorization provided for in this Act shall not prohibit other agencies from carrying out separately authorized programs for desalination research or operations.

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur in the amendments of the House, and I move to reconsider and lay on the table that action.

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

AMENDING THE CLEAN AIR ACT

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2988 which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2988) to amend the Clean Air Act to provide that traffic signal synchronization projects are exempt from certain requirements of EPA rules.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. NICKLES. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be deemed read a third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be placed at this point in the RECORD.

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

AMENDMENTS TO THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL FREE TRADE IMPLEMENTATION ACT

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 404, H.R. 3074.

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

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3074), to amend the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985, to provide the President with additional proclamation authority with respect to articles of the West Bank or Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone, reported with an amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the bill?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents is as follows:

Sec. 1. Table of contents.

TITLE I—EXTENSION OF FREE TRADE TO WEST BANK AND GAZA

Sec. 101. Additional proclamation authority.

TITLE II—APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF OECD SHIPBUILDING AGREEMENT

Subtitle A—General Provisions

Sec. 201. Short title.