

to include an amendment to this magnificent document that would ensure that the rights of the roughly 43 million people victimized by crime each year will be protected.

Our ongoing effort to include a victims' rights amendment in the Constitution has been at times frustrating, while at other times exhilarating. Each sentence, each word, and each comma has undergone hours of deliberation and questioning.

Having said that, I must tell this body and share with my colleagues that this latest resolution is still a work in progress—let me be perfectly clear, we anticipate modifications. Three principal issues remain unresolved:

First, whether there should be an effective remedy when crime victims are denied rights regarding sentences or pleas.

Second, whether to include non-violent crimes ("other crimes"), and if these crimes are included, whether they should be defined by Congress or by Congress and the States.

Third, whether to have a right to a "final disposition free from unreasonable delay", whether to limit this right to trial proceedings, or whether to exclude this altogether.

Mr. President, Senator KYL and I believe that the latest resolution before us is much better than the version than was previously introduced for a number of reasons. The language describing these rights has changed—and we continue to welcome suggestions to ensure that this amendment pass with the largest majority.

Unfortunately, there was precious little time to advance the amendment in this Congress, and once it became clear that the other Chamber would not proceed with the amendment this session, Senators KYL and BIDEN and I decided not to press for Senate action in the last few weeks of the Congress, but, rather, to spend the next few months continuing to work to fine tune the amendment and build a consensus for its passage.

We implore Members of this body to examine this amendment, and to help to secure passage of this monumental piece of legislation. After 200 years, doesn't this Nation owe something to the millions of victims of crime? I believe that is our obligation and should be our highest priority—not only for the crime victims, but, for all Americans—to ensure passage of a victims' rights constitutional amendment.

I want to personally thank Senator KYL for his tireless efforts to accomplish this amendment, and to say that I look forward to continuing to work with him in the months to come.

I thank my colleagues and I yield the floor.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 553

At the request of Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, the name of the Senator from

New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 553, a bill to amend the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 to reinstate an exemption for certain bona fide hiring and retirement plans applicable to State and local firefighters and law enforcement officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1233

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. DORGAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1233, a bill to assure equitable coverage and treatment of emergency services under health plans.

S. 1385

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the names of the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB], and the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 1385, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of periodic colorectal screening services under Part B of the medicare program.

S. 1726

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1726, a bill to promote electronic commerce by facilitating the use of strong encryption, and for other purposes.

S. 1862

At the request of Mr. PRESSLER, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. FEINGOLD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1862, a bill to permit the interstate distribution of State-inspected meat under appropriate circumstances.

S. 1911

At the request of Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota [Mr. DASCHLE] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1911, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage economic development through the creation of additional empowerment zones and enterprise communities and to encourage the cleanup of contaminated brownfield sites.

S. 1949

At the request of Mr. PRESSLER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1949, a bill to ensure the continued viability of livestock producers and the livestock industry in the United States.

S. 1951

At the request of Mr. FORD, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1951, a bill to ensure the competitiveness of the United States textile and apparel industry.

S. 1965

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1965, a bill to prevent the illegal manufacturing and use of methamphetamine.

S. 2030

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2030, a bill to establish nationally uniform requirements regarding the ti-

ling and registration of salvage, non-repairable, and rebuilt vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 2086

At the request of Mr. PRESSLER, the name of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. SIMPSON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2086, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify certain rules relating to the taxation of United States business operating abroad, and for other purposes.

S. 2091

At the request of Mr. PRESSLER, the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2091, a bill to provide for small business and agriculture regulatory relief.

S. 2141

At the request of Mr. HATFIELD, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2141, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit certain tax free corporate liquidations into a 501(c)(3) organization and to revise the unrelated business income tax rules regarding receipt of debt-financed property in such a liquidation.

S. 2143

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 2143, a bill to authorize funds for construction of highways, and for other purposes.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 306—RELATIVE TO THE PEOPLE OF OKINAWA

Mr. ROTH (for himself, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. NUNN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 306

Whereas the Senate finds that the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security Between the United States of America and Japan is critical to the security interests of the United States, Japan and the nations of the Asian Pacific region;

Whereas the bilateral security relationship is the foundation for U.S. security strategy in Asia and the Pacific;

Whereas strong bilateral security ties provide a key stabilizing influence in an uncertain post-Cold War world;

Whereas the bilateral security relationship makes it possible for the United States to preserve its interest in the Asia Pacific region;

Whereas U.S. forward-deployed forces are welcomed by our allies in the region because they are critical for maintaining stability in East Asia;

Whereas the recognition by our allies of the importance of American troops for regional security confers on the United States irreplaceable good will and diplomatic influence in the Asia Pacific;

Whereas Japan's host nation support is a key element in the U.S. ability to maintain forward-deployed forces;

Whereas the people of Okinawa have borne a disproportionate share of the burdens of Japan's host nation support for America's bases in Japan;

Whereas the Government's of the United States and Japan have made a commitment to reducing the burdens of U.S. forces of the people of Okinawa;