

the need for appropriate mental health services.

Senator SMITH has also worked tirelessly these past few months to move the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. During a time of partisanship and divisiveness, a majority of members in the House and Senate have been able to set aside those differences to help expeditiously move this important legislation.

I have had the honor and pleasure of working with my colleague from Oregon on this very personal tribute since the beginning. As my colleagues may recall, this legislation is comprised of two separate legislative initiatives that were introduced earlier this year, the Youth Suicide Early Intervention and Prevention Expansion Act, sponsored by Senators DODD and DEWINE and the Campus Care and Counseling Act, which I introduced along with Senator DEWINE.

The legislation takes a comprehensive approach to the increasing problem of suicide among our youth as well as providing additional resources to our Nation's colleges and universities as they struggle to offer the kinds of support students need to grow and achieve academically as well as personally. Information, outreach and access to mental and behavioral health services is becoming an increasingly important part of that equation.

The Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act contains many important provisions that I hope will help to stem the growing numbers of youth suicides in this country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide and self-inflicted injuries remain a pressing public health concern. We hope this legislation will help to change this by enabling States, local communities and institutions of higher education to implement effective youth suicide prevention and intervention strategies.

Two months ago, a unanimous Senate passed the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. Since that time, the bill has undergone what I would consider to be considerable changes to address concerns raised by Energy and Commerce Chairman Barton and others.

I have always been willing to entertain and accommodate issues that have been raised that have related to the substance of this bill. I am deeply concerned, however, by the insistence of some in the other body to inject partisan ideology in this bill.

Just prior to the August recess, a few members of the other body scuttled movement on the bill when they insisted on adding language that would create a new parental consent standard, layered onto one that has been in law, under the General Education Provisions Act, GEPA, which was recently updated as part of the No Child Left Behind Act.

While the majority has made it clear they will not abide changes in other parts of the No Child Left Behind Act, even common sense fixes that school

administrators, principals, teachers, and parents have been called for, they insisted on language—which could prevent the very young people we are trying to help from accessing the mental health services they need.

We worked in good faith over the past month to come up with a compromise, and while the language has improved from the version initially proposed, it still raises some fundamental concerns.

I am appreciative of the efforts of Senator SMITH to add a clarification that the language has no impact on the No Child Left Behind Act. Unfortunately, the language does not include a similar assurance on the standards for parental notice and consent included under sections 444 and 445 of the General Education Provisions Act.

As a result, we have created a different standard for assessments, programs, and services in elementary and secondary schools relating to youth suicide, as compared to other health and mental health assessments, programs, and services that occur in our schools. Not only does this language set a new precedent, we are adding a confusing and burdensome layer of requirements on school personnel at a time when they are struggling to meet the goals of the No Child Left Behind Act and trying to do the best they can to help our young people.

However, in recognizing how important the overall bill is to our Nation's young people and college students, and the commitment of the Senator from Oregon to address this language in the future, I support passage of the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act. I praise my colleagues in both Chambers for their continued diligence on this bill and appreciate the willingness of the majority and minority leaders to set aside time so that this important piece of legislation can finally move to the President's desk.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN RECOGNITION OF SUMMIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, ASHLAND, KY

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise today with great pride to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to one of Kentucky's fine elementary schools, Summit Elementary of Ashland, KY. On June 22, 2004, the Schools of Distinction Awards program gave Summit Elementary an Award of Distinction for their dedication to excellence in education.

The Schools of Distinction Awards program was created by Intel Corporation, Scholastic Inc., and the Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence Foundation, to recognize the finest K through 12 schools in the United States. Winners of the program's awards are selected based on their implementation of creative programs that foster improvement in education.

Summit Elementary School received the award for its practice of involving the parents of schoolchildren in the educational process. As the father of nine children, I am aware of the great importance of parental involvement in education. It can't be overestimated. It is a motivator to the children, a guidance to the teachers and a helping hand to all involved. I believe that any school which recognizes the need for parental involvement is on the right track and certainly deserves a School of Distinction Award.

In closing, I thank, not only Summit Elementary, but the parents, teachers, and students of this fine institution. The effort they have all put into ensuring that the future of America is bright is a blessing on us all. ●

##### COMMEMORATING LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF MICHIGAN FOR 70 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I, along with my esteemed colleague Senator STABENOW, congratulate Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, LSSM, on its 70th anniversary. We are delighted to recognize LSSM's impressive history of compassion and good will in Michigan. We would also like to recognize and honor LSSM's staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts and outstanding commitment to helping those in need.

LSSM's legacy of service dates back to the early years of the 20th century when the Lutheran churches in Detroit formed the Missionsbund, a society dedicated to providing humanitarian assistance in Detroit. The Lutheran Inner Mission League of Greater Detroit grew out of this effort and was soon thereafter called the Lutheran Charities and formally incorporated in 1934. Under the leadership of its first executive director, the Rev. Carl E. Schaffnit, its efforts included child welfare work, a settlement house, and services to the elderly. By 1959 Lutheran Charities gained a new name, the Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, and has since expanded its mission to serve others in the name of faith with 80 programs in 44 cities throughout Michigan's lower peninsula.

Over 20,000 people from diverse backgrounds feel the warm embrace of LSSM on an annual basis by utilizing the many services it has to offer. LSSM's excellence can be seen by the success of its programs in the realm of foster care, adoption, childcare, subsidized housing, nursing homes, community centers, and services to the homeless, refugees, and persons with developmental disabilities. Its efforts to preserve and enhance human dignity across Michigan have created hope for so many. We share this organization's vision for a community that upholds human dignity, decries complacency and affirms equality and justice. We are sure that our Senate colleagues will join us in offering our heartfelt