

After 1986, illegal immigrant population tripled from 2.7 million aliens, to 4 million aliens in 1996, to 8 million aliens in 2000, to an estimated 12 million illegal aliens today.

In that time, the Congress continued to enact amnesty after amnesty, waiving the Immigration Act for lawbreakers. The result is always the same: For every group of illegal aliens granted amnesty, a bigger group enters the country hoping to be similarly rewarded.

The pending substitute amendment embodies this same flawed model. It's more of the same: More amnesties, more guest worker programs, more unfunded mandates on our immigration agencies. We ought to be focusing on how to limit the incentives for illegal immigration, and erase the contradictions in our immigration policies that encourage individuals on both sides of the border to flout the law and get away with it.

What's backwards about the pending substitute amendment is that it is actually rewarding illegal aliens. It rewards illegal behavior. It authorizes illegal aliens to work in the country. It grants illegal aliens a path to citizenship. It pardons employers who illegally employ unauthorized workers. It even repeals provisions in current law designed to deny cheaper, in-state tuition rates to illegal aliens.

The pending amendment is a big welcome mat for illegal immigrants. It is a misguided and dangerous proposal that would doom this Congress to the failures of previous Congresses.

The economist John Maynard Keynes once described the qualification for an economist as being the ability to study the present, in the light of the past, for the purpose of looking into the future. Patrick Henry echoed those sentiments more than a century earlier when he said:

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past.

Our Nation's experience shows that amnesties do not work. They are dangerous proposals that reward and encourage illegal immigration. Our experience shows that we cannot play games with our border security or American lives could be lost.

I will oppose the Specter-Leahy substitute amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a

period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On March 18, 2006, in Savannah, GA, Travis McLain, was beaten by Charles Pickett in what appears to be a crime motivated by hate. McLain suffered a concussion and lost several teeth when he was attacked in a local parking garage. McLain has stated that Pickett used anti-gay language while attacking him. Georgia Equality, the state's largest gay rights organization is calling this attack an anti-gay hate crime.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I would like the RECORD to reflect that I was necessarily absent for the votes on Senator BINGAMAN's amendment, No. 3210, vote No. 84, and Senator ALEXANDER's amendment, No. 3193, vote No. 85, on Monday, April 3, 2006. Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted in favor of both amendments.

#### GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is holding a conference to delve into some of the policy questions that have delayed efforts to move forward with legislation addressing global warming. As many Americans have realized—even in the face of an absolute void of leadership from this current administration—one of the greatest challenges currently facing us is how to reduce our contributions to global climate change before it is too late for changes to matter. In fact, the majority of the American public believes that they have an individual role to play in being a part of the solution. And the public is looking to us, their elected leaders, to provide the framework for change.

As many people know, Senators LIEBERMAN and MCCAIN have been the longtime champions of raising awareness of global warming. Today's conference, under the leadership of Senators DOMENICI and BINGAMAN, demonstrates that more and more elected officials are willing to take a stand in recognizing the imminent need for action. Along with my constituents, I hope that the time will soon come when a majority of the U.S. Congress is willing to follow their lead.

On the heels of today's conference, another Senate committee is scheduled to consider the issue of global warming. Tomorrow, the Commerce Committee's Global Climate Change and Impacts Subcommittee will hear about the administration's approach to the issue. While the administration favors developing and sharing new zero and low-carbon technologies with developing nations, I submit that our citizens are looking for bold action that addresses more than how we will help developing countries—they want to know what we plan to do domestically.

Mr. President, if there ever was a time when it was all right to ignore global warming, that time has long passed. We have got to get real about this issue—and getting real will require a commitment to reducing our dependence on oil instead of continually talking about opening up a wildlife refuge for oil drilling. For, if we continue turning our backs on the reality of climate change, we might as well be turning our backs on our grandchildren—and this is why I am optimistic that the Senate's treatment of global warming is nearing its own tipping point, a point after which we will provide the leadership that our constituents are increasingly expecting from us.

#### TRIBUTE TO TIM PETTY

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment and acknowledge the dedicated service of Tim Petty, director of information resources for the U.S. Senate Republican Conference, which I chair. Tim is moving on to become a Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Interior, and today is his last day serving the Senate.

Since 1999, Tim has served as an integral team leader in the creation and development of the Internet technology department established by the Senate Republican Conference. This department was created to help the Conference implement a comprehensive technology strategy to help the Republican leadership efficiently and effectively use evolving Internet communication capabilities.

Over the course of the past 7 years, Tim has led efforts and worked in collaboration with Senate and leadership offices in transforming the way the conference communicates and disseminates information using 21st century strategies and technology. Tim is always thinking of the next step, the next tool, the next idea.