

lost their lives in the line of duty. Every police officer who takes a call knows the dangers facing them. That is why this legislation is so crucial.

The number of police officers who do not have access to bulletproof vests is astounding. Almost 150,000 law enforcement officers do not have the ability to fully protect themselves. Simply put, passage of this legislation will save lives.

The entire membership of the IBPO looks forward to working with you on this important issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

KENNETH T. LYONS,
National President.

STATE OF VERMONT OFFICE OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL,
February 26, 1998.

Hon. ORRIN G. HATCH,
Hon. PATRICK J. LEAHY,
Senate Committee on the Judiciary.
Hon. BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.
Re: Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act of 1998
(S. 1605)

DEAR SENATORS CAMPBELL, HATCH AND LEAHY: As state attorneys general, we are writing to express our wholehearted support for Senate Bill No. 1605, the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Act of 1998. In our view, this bill will be an invaluable tool in helping to protect law enforcement officers throughout the country who risk their lives daily while serving their communities. This bill would provide much needed matching grants to state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies to be used to purchase armor vests for their officers. We were particularly pleased to note the provision for waivers of the grantee's matching contribution in the event of a fiscal hardship by a particular law enforcement agency.

As you are all too aware, state, local and tribal law enforcement officers often find themselves in deadly confrontations with highly armed and dangerous criminals. The statistics cited in your bill make it imperative that every officer in the country have ready access to body armor when it is needed. Your bill will assure that all police departments will have the resources to equip officers with body armor as standard equipment. The bill will also allow reimbursement to those officers who have had to purchase body armor at their own personal expense.

This bill will enable more officers to wear armor when they need it. It will definitely save lives. We appreciate your support for this bill and urge passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

William H. Sorrell, Attorney General of Vermont.

Gale Norton, Attorney General of Colorado.

Bill Pryor, Attorney General of Alabama.

Bruce M. Botelho, Attorney General of Alaska.

Grant Woods, Attorney General of Arizona.

Daniel E. Lungren, Attorney General of California.

M. Jane Brady, Attorney General of Delaware.

Robert A. Butterworth, Attorney General of Florida.

Gus S. Diaz, Attorney General of Guam.

Margery S. Bronster, Attorney General of Hawaii.

Alan G. Lance, Attorney General of Idaho.

James E. Ryan, Attorney General of Illinois.

Jeffrey A. Modisett, Attorney General of Indiana.

Albert B. Chandler III, Attorney General of Kentucky.

Richard P. Ieyoub, Attorney General of Louisiana.

Andrew Ketterer, Attorney General of Maine.

J. Joseph Curran, Jr., Attorney General of Maryland.

Scott Harshbarger, Attorney General of Massachusetts.

Hubert H. Humphrey III, Attorney General of Minnesota.

Mike Moore, Attorney General of Mississippi.

Joseph P. Mazurek, Attorney General of Montana.

Frankie Sue Del Papa, Attorney General of Nevada.

Philip McLaughlin, Attorney General of New Hampshire.

Peter Vemler, Attorney General of New Jersey.

Dennis C. Vacco, Attorney General of New York.

Heidi Heitkamp, Attorney General of North Dakota.

Betty D. Montgomery, Attorney General of Ohio.

Drew Edmondson, Attorney General of Oklahoma.

Hardy Myers, Attorney General of Oregon.

Mike Fisher, Attorney General of Pennsylvania.

Jose A. Fuentes, Attorney General of Puerto Rico.

Jeffrey B. Pine, Attorney General of Rhode Island.

Charles Molony Condon, Attorney General of South Carolina.

Mark Barnett, Attorney General of South Dakota.

Jan Graham, Attorney General of Utah.

Mark L. Earley, Attorney General of Virginia.

Christine O. Gregoire, Attorney General of Washington.

Darrell V. McGraw, Jr., Attorney General of West Virginia.

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

Mr. LEAHY. I urge the House of Representatives to support this bipartisan legislation and urge its quick passage into law.

RELATING TO THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar No. 319, S. Res. 174.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 174) to state the sense of the Senate that Thailand is a key partner and friend of the United States, has committed itself to executing its responsibilities under its arrangements with the International Monetary Fund, and that the United States should be prepared to take appropriate steps to ensure continued close bilateral relations.

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1980

(Purpose: Relating to the relationship between the United States and Thailand)

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, Senator ROTH has an amendment to the

resolution at the desk. I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE], for Mr. ROTH, proposes an amendment numbered 1980.

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

On page 2, strike lines 2 through 7 and insert the following:

"(1) the United States should enhance the close political and security relationship between Thailand and the United States and strengthen economic ties and cooperation with Thailand to ensure that Thailand's economic recovery continues uninterrupted; and"

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 1980) was agreed to.

Mr. CHAFEE. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, as amended.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 174), as amended, was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 1981

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I understand there is an amendment at the desk to the preamble.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE], for Mr. ROTH, proposes an amendment numbered 1981 to the preamble to S. Res. 174.

Mr. CHAFEE. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

In the preamble, strike "and" at the end of the sixth "Whereas" clause.

In the preamble, strike the colon at the end of the seventh "Whereas" clause and insert "and".

In the preamble, insert after the seventh "Whereas" clause the following:

"Whereas Thailand's democratic reforms have advanced with that country's economic growth and development:"

Mr. CHAFEE. I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be agreed to.

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

The amendment (No. 1981) was agreed to.

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; that the motions to reconsider the above actions be laid upon the table; and, finally, that any statements regarding this legislation appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, was agreed to, as follows:

[The resolution was not available for printing. It will appear in a future edition of the RECORD.]

Mr. ROTH. Madam President, I thank my colleagues for unanimously adopting this resolution. I believe this vote of 100 to 0 lets Thailand and the Thai people know the heartfelt sentiments of the Senate and the American people toward bilateral friendship and partnership. It also makes clear our recognition of the strides Bangkok has been making in executing its responsibilities under its arrangements with the International Monetary Fund. Only last week, for example, Thailand deepened its commitment to economic reform by pledging to speed up privatizations and the reorganization of its banking system.

This week the new Prime Minister of Thailand, Chuan Leekpai, will visit the United States. Many of us will have the chance to meet him when he comes to visit Capitol Hill. While Prime Minister Chuan faces many challenges in the coming months and years, I hope and trust the support for Thailand that he will find in this country will help him in overcoming those challenges.

As I have said before, I believe that all of us in this Chamber—and Americans all across this land—are great admirers of Thailand and Thai culture. I remain optimistic about Thailand's future. Given the Thai people's energy and initiative, the country's remarkable history, and its record of economic success, I look forward to seeing Thailand's return to prosperity in the not-too-distant future.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations on the Executive Calendar: Nos. 528, 531, 532 and 533.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

THE JUDICIARY

Hilda G. Tagle, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Sam A. Lindsay, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas.

Judith M. Barzilay, of New Jersey, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Delissa A. Ridgway, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1998

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 12, 1998, and that immediately following the prayer, the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate begin a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 10:30 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator DORGAN, 15 minutes; Senator LEAHY, 15 minutes.

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

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I also ask unanimous consent that at 10:30 a.m. the Senate resume consideration of S. 1173, the highway bill, and immediately proceed to a vote on or in relation to the McCain amendment No. 1726 regarding demonstration projects.

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

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, I further ask unanimous consent that Members have until the hour of 10 a.m. to file first-degree amendments to S. 1173.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. CHAFEE. Tomorrow, the Senate, Madam President, will be in a period of morning business from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. At 10:30 a.m., by a previous order, the Senate will proceed to a rollcall vote on the McCain amendment to S. 1173, the so-called ISTEA II legislation. Following that vote, the Senate will attempt to complete action on the bill.

In addition, the Senate may begin the consideration of S. 414, the international shipping bill, and H.R. 2646, the A-plus education bill. Therefore, Members should anticipate a busy voting day with votes occurring into the early evening.

Mr. FORD. Madam President, would the distinguished Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CHAFEE. Yes.

Mr. FORD. Members have until the hour of 10 a.m. to file first-degree amendments to S. 1173. Is that in addition to the amendments that are already filed correctly, and this gets around the hour in advance?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's understanding is correct.

Mr. FORD. So the second-degree amendments can still be offered?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By previous agreement, second-degree amendments are allowed for 24 hours.

Mr. FORD. I wanted to be sure about that so there would not be any confusion. I thank the leadership for accommodating those so we would not have to file those tonight and so we could prepare those overnight and file them at 10 o'clock in the morning. I am grateful for that accommodation.

I thank the chairman and I thank the Chair.

Mr. CHAFEE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. CHAFEE. I hope everybody does not feel—

Mr. FORD. Compelled.

Mr. CHAFEE. The requirement that they file an amendment. We have dealt with some 200 amendments. That, it seems to me, pretty well covers the field. So I would not have hurt feelings if there were no amendments filed by 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Mr. FORD. Well, the Senator knows that, given overnight, there is a lot of thought going into what they might file tomorrow, and to accommodate your colleagues, it may have gotten you in a little more trouble than you wanted. So I throw that in. I believe the Senator will be surprised at the small number of amendments that are filed by 10 o'clock tomorrow.

Mr. CHAFEE. I will be happy to be surprised.

So that completes our business. I do want to say to those who will be listening, I really believe we can finish this bill rather quickly tomorrow, if people restrain themselves on further amendments. We have some here, and we worked out some. It seems to me we have had a pretty good—we have been on this bill now I think for something close to 2½ weeks, and everything is pretty well taken care of. I hope Members will show great restraint.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. CHAFEE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:48 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 12, 1998, at 9:30 a.m.