

I also say there was another matter that was not bipartisan. That involved the Republicans' attempt to permanently repeal the estate tax.

I am very proud of the fact that we did not do that. I think that is a good fiscal policy. It is good tax policy, and I am confident that any effort to repeal the estate tax permanently would fail in the future.

Let me hasten to add that the Democrats certainly support reform of the estate tax. We supported an increase in the overall exemption to \$7 million, and we are very appreciative of the widespread effort within our caucus and hopefully within the Congress itself to continue to work to reform the estate tax over a period of time. But blocking the permanent repeal of the estate tax saves the Treasury \$60 billion a year when it is fully implemented, \$600 billion over the course of a 10-year period of time. So we look upon this actually as an accomplishment, as we have with all of the other accomplishments during the month of June.

But I might say, as we look at accomplishments, the list has become quite significant over the course of the last 12 months.

Right after the Democrats took the majority, we passed a Patients' Bill of Rights. After the tragedy of September 11, we passed an antiterrorism use of force resolution and an immediate \$40 billion response to the terrorist attacks, the Defense and homeland security appropriations bill, and the USA Patriot Act to deal with the extraordinary challenges we have with regard to law enforcement.

We passed increased airport, border, and port security. We passed terrorism insurance. We passed additional support for the airline industry, which was really struggling after the tragedy of September 11. We passed economic stimulus and unemployment insurance legislation. We passed the campaign finance reform bill. We passed an election reform bill.

We passed 57 judicial confirmations. That is more than any recent Congress has passed in the same period of time, either Republican or Democrat, even in those cases when the Senate was of the same party as the President at that particular time.

We passed clean water and brownfields revitalization legislation. We passed a sweeping comprehensive education reform bill. We passed an energy bill. We passed a farm bill. And as I just noted, we have passed the Defense authorization bill.

I would say, as we look at this list of accomplishments, it would be hard for anyone to argue we have not accomplished a good deal in our first 12 months as members of the majority.

I look with great satisfaction, with great pride, and am very grateful to all of my colleagues for the extraordinary job they have done in working through the committees—and in most cases all of this legislation has come through

committees—to address the needs of America in public policy and the tremendous challenges we face as a nation.

We will continue to add to this growing list of accomplishments over the course of the next several months as we complete our work in the 107th Congress. Certainly, the 107th Congress has been historic for so many reasons, but I would say that when all is said and done, at the end of the session we will be able to look with great satisfaction, with great pride, and, I might say, with a certain degree of confidence that we have done what the American people have expected of us.

Passing this legislation is a recognition of what Democrats in the majority can do in the broad array of issues with which we have done it.

So I thank my colleagues. I thank all of those who are responsible for the work on these bills, especially our legislative leadership, the chairs of each committee where these bills have been produced, for the work within the committee, and certainly the management they have demonstrated on the Senate floor as these bills have been passed here on the floor and sent either to the House or to the President.

I see my colleague from Michigan on the floor. I will yield the floor at this time. But I again appreciate the work done by our caucus, and, I might say, in concert, on many occasions, with our Republican colleagues, to achieve the long list of accomplishments we have listed here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KENNEDY). The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, before the majority leader leaves the Chamber, let me say he is always giving credit to others for the accomplishments of this body—which have been many—and what he, in his traditional modesty, of course, does not make any reference to is his own leadership and the role of that leadership in these accomplishments. But there is not a Member of this body on either side of the aisle who does not recognize the extraordinary leadership of Senator DASCHLE. And that list is a tribute to his leadership. It obviously involves a lot of other people, as he pointed out. Nonetheless, it is his leadership that has led the way to a successful and long list of achievements so far in this Congress.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I am grateful for his kind words. We have always had a tremendous team effort within our caucus and within the legislative leadership of the Senate but I recognize that the workhorses are the chairs. And I am speaking to one as we stand here this morning.

I thank him for his kind words. I thank the Senator for yielding.

THE SHOOTING DEATHS OF DETROIT-AREA CHILDREN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, children are being killed in our cities in record

numbers. This year, in Los Angeles, 25 have been killed. The rates are the same in Houston, New York, Chicago, and in every other city where illegal drugs are plentiful and good jobs are scarce, where access to a better life is hard but access to a gun is easy.

Parents put their children to sleep in bathtubs where they might be safer from driveby shootings. Children find guns in homes and on playgrounds, with tragic results. Drug dealers go gunning for each other and don't care who gets killed in the crossfire.

So far this year, 22 children have been wounded by gunfire in my hometown of Detroit, in the metropolitan area. Ten children have been shot and killed. Statistics alone cannot convey the extent of this ongoing tragedy. But here, briefly, are some of the sorrowful and grim stories of these children, their families, and their pain.

On February 25, Ajanee Pollard, 7 years old, was shot and killed, allegedly by a man who was upset that he had just purchased—with two counterfeit \$20 bills—a defective radio from a friend of Ajanee's uncle. Ajanee, her uncle, her mother, and three siblings were getting ready to go shopping when one of the three men charged with the murder allegedly fired shots from an M1 rifle into the car Ajanee's mother was driving.

Ajanee was a second grade student at Thomas Houghten Elementary School in northwest Detroit. Ajanee had been named Student of the Month, was a midfielder in the local youth soccer league, and enjoyed going to Bible school at Genesis Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Ajanee's 6-year-old brother Jason had to have his pancreas and part of his intestines removed from the wounds he suffered as a result of the shooting. Both of Ajanee's sisters suffered gunshot wounds to the legs, and her mother was treated for injuries as well.

On March 23, Destinee Thomas, 3 years old, was shot and killed in her home while watching Mickey Mouse cartoons. A man armed with an AK-47 riddled the house with bullets.

Two men have been arrested and charged with the murder. According to police and press reports, they had been involved in a "turf battle" with two drug dealers from a rival street gang.

On March 28, Alesia Robinson, 16 years old and a junior at Kettering High School, sat on the front porch of her home on Detroit's east side while her boyfriend played with a gun. According to police, Alesia—who wanted to become a pediatrician—asked her boyfriend to put the gun away. Instead, he pointed it at her face and pulled the trigger.

On April 3, Christopher James, 11 years old, was killed by a single gunshot wound to the head. His 12-year-old half-brother has been charged in juvenile court with manslaughter. According to family members, the two were playing with a .22 caliber revolver they had found on a playground and that the shooting was an accident.

On April 10, Brianna Caddell, 8 years old, was shot and killed while she was sleeping in her bed. Brianna, her mother Pamela Martin, and her grandmother Dorothy Caddell were fixtures at Truth Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Antoine Foote also involved in drug turf wars, was charged with her murder. According to police, he sprayed more than two dozen rounds at the house with an AK-47.

Brianna was a third grader at the John C. Marshall Elementary School. One of Brianna's classmates, Oshinique Mapp, wants to become a policewoman or doctor or teacher so she can "change the bad people." Another classmate, Jeremiah Russell, wants to go to college so he can get away from the drug dealers in his neighborhood.

On April 19, Irisha Keener, 3 years old, was shot in the head by her mother, as the two lay in bed. Her mother then committed suicide.

On April 30, Cherrel Thomas, 15 years old, was shot and killed while riding in the back seat of a Chrysler Concorde. Cherrel, by the way, was a freshman at McKenzie High School where she played trombone and baritone tuba in the school marching band and jazz ensemble. Terrill Johnson and Jesse Freeman were charged with that murder.

On May 26, Tiffany Taylor, 15 years old, was fatally shot in the head while riding in a car in Mt. Clemens with friends coming home from a roller skating party at the Great Skate Rink in Roseville. Tiffany was a freshman at Roseville Junior High School, where she was on the honor roll and led after-school programs. Police believe that someone in an abandoned house frequently used by drug dealers and addicts fired five rounds from a handgun at Tiffany as she rode by—for no apparent reason.

On June 2, DeAntoine Trammell, 10 years old, was shot and killed in his grandmother's apartment on Detroit's east side. According to eyewitnesses, the person who killed him came to the house drunk and distraught, threatened to commit suicide, then fired two shots into the kitchen wall instead. The bullets pierced the wall and went into an adjacent bedroom. Moments later, Shawn Trammell, DeAntoine's 14-year-old brother, carried his bloody body into the kitchen. The boys' mother collapsed in shock. Shawn shouted out, "Come on, Mama, come on. He's breathing!" They rushed DeAntoine to a clinic but were turned away because it is not a trauma center. DeAntoine died a day later at St. John Hospital.

DeAntoine was a fifth-grader at Bow Elementary School. His basketball team was scheduled to receive a trophy the day after he died. He loved sports, video games, cartoons, and pizza, and often helped out in the school cafeteria.

The week before DeAntoine was killed, he had been paired with Keefe Brooks, 48, a Bloomfield Hills lawyer, as part of the V.I.P. Mentors program.

According to the Detroit Free Press, Brooks wanted to show DeAntoine the possibilities life held for him. "I had hoped to expose him to successful people in the city, to help him build positive images and role models," Brooks said. "I cannot bear the thought of my match having been taken from our world before I even got to know him. I cannot bear the thought of more children being slaughtered in our city."

Gun violence is still an epidemic in our cities. A teenager today is more likely to die of a gunshot wound than of all natural causes of disease. Yet we seem incapable of requiring background checks at gun shows even though the President said he would support doing so when he campaigned in 2000. We seem incapable of requiring gun manufacturers to include trigger locks with their products even though we can regulate just about every other product under the sun. We need to pass these common-sense measures to help stanch the flow of guns and blood in our cities. But the Attorney General files briefs that undermine the enforcement of existing hand gun control laws instead.

As a Nation, we hope and pray that 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart will be returned to her home in Salt Lake City safe and sound. But as a Nation, we overlook the death of Ajanee, and Destinee, and Alesia, and Christopher, and Brianna, and Irisha, and Cherrel, and Tiffany, and DeAntoine. We haven't seen home videos of them on the evening news, but we should. Their families and friends and communities feel the anguish alone.

Is it resignation? Worse yet, is it indifference? I hope neither.

Some in Detroit have responded to the epidemic. The Detroit Police Department and the Wayne County Prosecutor have launched Project Safe Neighborhoods so that criminals who use guns will be prosecuted in federal courts. They have launched Project Destinee, which is an attempt to dismantle the two rival drug gangs whose members have been implicated in that child's murder. The city has Child Death Review Teams to learn everything possible about the murders. People are joining SOSAD, Save Our Sons And Daughters, an organization Clementine Barfield started after her son Derick was killed in 1986, and the Detroit chapter of the Million Mom March, which Shikha Hamilton runs. Other groups involved include the Neighborhood Service Organization, Youth Initiatives Project, and Pioneers for Peace.

On Saturday, May 11, a massive community forum on violence was held at Second Ebenezer Baptist Church. On May 16, a group of 350 religious leaders met at the Northwest Activity Center to kick off their Positive Youth Development Initiative, a collaborative effort among government, religious, and community leaders to help at-risk children. On June 11, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick announced a six-point program to curb the violence.

The funerals for the slain children have become impromptu community forums and rallies where people's determination and hope have commingled with their grief and outrage.

The Poet Langston Hughes asked:

What happens to a dream deferred?
Does it dry up
Like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?

We have learned, sadly, that dreams deferred do explode—in gunfire. And we have seen, sadly, what happens when people don't even have the capacity or the chance to dream.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PUBLIC COMPANY ACCOUNTING REFORM AND INVESTOR PROTECTION ACT

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about important legislation that we will be considering as soon as we return from the Fourth of July recess.

In February of this year, the banking committee, of which the Chair is a member—and I appreciate the opportunity to serve with him—began a series of 10 hearings touching at ways to strengthen our accounting system, protect investors, and make needed reforms at the SEC.

We all understand every day the growing need to be able to do that.

Our hearings didn't necessarily make the headlines with subpoenas sent to Ken Lay of Enron or Andrew Fastow, but the work that we did I believe was incredibly important, very thorough and very thoughtful.

Chairman SARBANES, our chairman of the committee, is to be commended for his impressive leadership and thoughtfulness and hard work on this subject. At the end of the day, it is due to his commitment to doing this carefully and due to the commitment of my colleagues on the committee who followed panel after panel of witnesses closely—from former SEC Chairs, to Paul Volcker, to consumer groups, to well-respected academics—that we now have before us a bill that will ultimately make the biggest difference for investors and for the markets. We critically need this.

In March, in the midst of our marathon of hearings, I was very pleased to join with Senator DODD and Senator