

AMENDMENT NO. 941

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 941 proposed to S. 761, a bill to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy.

AMENDMENT NO. 942

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 942 proposed to S. 761, a bill to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy.

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 942 proposed to S. 761, *supra*.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DODD:

S. 1204. A bill to enhance Federal efforts focused on public awareness and education about the risks and dangers associated with Shaken Baby Syndrome; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Act of 2007, important legislation that promotes awareness and prevention of Shaken Baby Syndrome, a devastating form of child abuse that results in the severe injury, disability or death of hundreds of children each year.

Child abuse and neglect is a well-documented tragedy for some of our youngest and most vulnerable citizens. According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) almost 900,000 children were victims of abuse and neglect in 2005. More than four children die every single day as a result of abusive maltreatment in this country. Babies are particularly vulnerable; in 2005, children aged 12 months or younger accounted for nearly 42 percent of all child abuse and neglect fatalities and children under age 3 accounted for almost 77 percent. Yet even these disturbing statistics may not paint an accurate picture; most experts agree that child abuse is widely under-reported.

Abusive head trauma, including Shaken Baby Syndrome, is the leading cause of death of physically abused children, in particular for infants younger than one. When a frustrated caregiver loses control and violently shakes a baby or impacts the baby's head, the trauma can kill the child or cause severe injuries, including loss of vision, loss of hearing, brain damage, paralysis, and/or seizures, resulting in

lifelong disabilities and creating profound grief for many families.

Far too many children have experienced the horrible devastation of Shaken Baby Syndrome. A 2003 report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* estimates that as a result of Shaken Baby Syndrome, an average of 300 U.S. children will die each year, and 600 to 1,200 more will be injured, of whom two-thirds will be infants younger than one. Medical professionals believe that thousands of Shaken Baby Syndrome cases are misdiagnosed or undetected, as many children do not immediately exhibit obvious symptoms after the abuse.

Prevention programs can significantly reduce the number of cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome. For example, the Upstate New York SBS Prevention Project at Children's Hospital of Buffalo has used a simple video to educate new parents before they leave the hospital, reducing the number of shaken baby injuries in the area by nearly 50 percent.

In Connecticut, a multifaceted prevention approach involving hospitals, schools, childcare providers, and community-based organizations in awareness and training activities, including home visits and targeted outreach, has raised awareness and encouraged prevention across the state. Hospitals in many States educate new parents about the dangers of shaking a baby, yet it is estimated that less than 60 percent of parents of newborns receive information about the dangers of shaking a baby. Without more outreach, education and training, the risk of Shaken Baby Syndrome will persist.

With the introduction of the Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention Act of 2007, I hope to reduce the number of children injured or killed by abusive head trauma, and ultimately to eliminate Shaken Baby Syndrome. Our initiative provides for the creation of a public health campaign, including development of a National Action Plan to identify effective, evidence-based strategies for prevention and awareness of SBS, and establishment of a cross-disciplinary advisory council to help coordinate national efforts.

The campaign will educate the general public, parents, child care providers, health care professionals and others about the dangers of shaking, as well as healthy preventative approaches for frustrated parents and caregivers coping with a crying or fussy infant. The legislation ensures support for families who have been affected by SBS, and for families and caregivers struggling with infant crying, through a 24-hour hotline and an informational website. All of these activities are to be implemented through the coordination of existing programs and/or the establishment of new efforts, to bring together the best in current prevention, awareness and education practices to be expanded into areas in need.

Awareness is absolutely critical to prevention. Families, professionals and

caregivers responsible for infants and young children and must learn about the dangers of violent shaking and abusive impacts to the head.

On behalf of the victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome, including Cynthia from New York, Hannah from California, Sarah from New York, Kierra from Nevada, Miranda from Pennsylvania, Taylor from Illinois, Cassandra from Arizona, Gabriela from Florida, Amber from New York, Bennett from Missouri, Jamison from Florida, Maggie from Texas, Dalton from Indiana, Stephen from Texas, Kaden from Washington, Joseph from Texas, Dawson from Pennsylvania, Macie from Minnesota, Jake from Maine, Benjamin from Michigan, Chloe from New Mexico, Madison of Oklahoma, Peanut from Texas, Nykkole from Minnesota, Gianna from Rhode Island, Brynn from Washington, Rachael from Texas, Jack from Maryland, Ryan from Virginia, David from California, Reagan from Virginia, Skipper from New York, and many other innocent lives lost or damaged, I look forward to working with my colleagues to see that this legislation becomes law so that we can expand efforts to eradicate Shaken Baby Syndrome.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of groups supporting this resolution be printed in the RECORD.

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

GROUPS SUPPORTING THE SHAKEN BABY SYNDROME PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

American Association of Neurological Surgeons; American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children; American Psychological Association; The Arc of the United States; Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs; Association of University Centers on Disabilities; Brain Injury Association of America; Center for Child Protection and Family Support; Child Welfare League of America; Children's Defense Fund; Children's Healthcare is a Legal Duty; Congress of Neurological Surgeons; The Connecticut Children's Trust Fund; Council for Exceptional Children; Cynthia Gibbs Foundation; Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children; Easter Seals; Epilepsy Foundation; Fight Crime: Invest in Kids; and The G.E.M. Child Protection Foundation.

Hannah Rose Foundation; IDEA Infant Toddler Coordinators Association; Kierra Harrison Foundation; Lifetime Family Resource Center, Inc.; Massachusetts Citizens for Children; The Multidisciplinary Pediatric Education and Evaluation Consortium; National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies; National Association of Children's Hospitals; National Association of State Head Injury Administrators; National Center for Learning Disabilities; National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome; National Child Abuse Coalition; National Family Partnership; National Respite Coalition; National Shaken Baby Coalition; National Shaken Baby Syndrome Nursing Network; Parents Anonymous; Pennsylvania Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Program; Prevent Child Abuse America; Shaken Baby Association; Shaken Baby Prevention, Inc.; Shaking Kills: Instead Parents Please Educate and Remember Initiative (SKIPPER); United Cerebral Palsy; and Upstate New York Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention and Awareness Program.