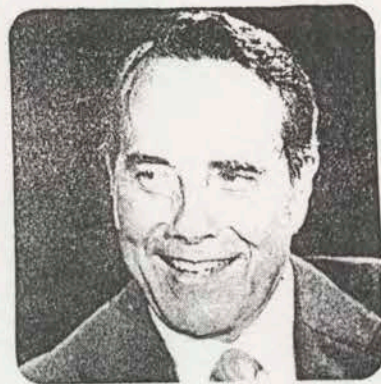


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 9, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

TESTIMONY OF SENATOR BOB DOLE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

MR. CHAIRMAN, SENATOR THURMOND, I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

I ALSO WANT TO COMMEND YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, FOR HOLDING THIS HEARING, AND FOR HOLDING HEARINGS ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE LAST FALL.

WITHOUT A DOUBT, THESE HEARINGS HAVE HELPED RAISE AMERICA'S AWARENESS ABOUT AN ASPECT OF VIOLENT CRIME THAT -- FOR TOO LONG -- HAS BEEN SWEEPED UNDER THE NATIONAL RUG.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A NATIONAL DISGRACE

WITH MORE THAN 2.5 MILLION VIOLENT CRIMES BEING COMMITTED AGAINST WOMEN EACH YEAR, WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A FEW ISOLATED INCIDENTS OR A RANDOM ACT OF VIOLENCE THAT HAPPENS TO GRAB THE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, WE'RE REALLY TALKING ABOUT A NATIONAL EPIDEMIC -- AN EPIDEMIC AFFECTING EVERY COMMUNITY, EVERY CITY, AND EVERY STATE IN THIS COUNTRY. MR. CHAIRMAN, IF ANYONE HAS ANY DOUBTS THAT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS A SERIOUS NATIONAL PROBLEM, HE SHOULD READ THE STORY OF AILEEN HEFFERREN, WHO -- AS A JOGGER IN WASHINGTON'S ROCK CREEK PARK LAST AUGUST -- WAS KNOCKED TO THE GROUND BY A 12-YEAR OLD ASSAILANT, TAUNTED, AND THEN LEFT SHAKING, BLEEDING, FALLING IN-AND-OUT OF CONSCIOUSNESS, ONLY TO BE PICKED UP ALMOST AN HOUR LATER BY AN EMERGENCY ROOM HOSPITAL.

A MINOR EVENT IN A BUSY CITY. PERHAPS.

AN EVENT THAT IS REPEATED HUNDREDS OF TIMES EACH DAY THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY. YES.

BUT AN EVENT THAT THIS NATION SHOULD COUNTENANCE AS ROUTINE, AS THE PRICE WE PAY FOR LIVING IN A FREE SOCIETY? ABSOLUTELY NOT.

THE WOMEN'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

MR. CHAIRMAN, EARLIER THIS YEAR, I JOINED WITH 14 OF MY SENATE REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES IN INTRODUCING S. 472, "THE WOMEN'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1991."

THIS BILL WAS AN AMBITIOUS PROJECT, COVERING EVERYTHING FROM SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE TO THE SO-CALLED "GLASS CEILING" THAT IMPEDES THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN UP THE CORPORATE LADDER.

LET'S NOT FORGET THAT SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION -- IN ALL OF ITS FORMS -- OVERT AND COVERT -- SUBTLE AND NOT-SO-SUBTLE -- ARE ALSO ELEMENTS OF THE "VIOLENCE- AGAINST-WOMEN" PROBLEM.

BUT I'LL LEAVE THOSE TOPICS FOR ANOTHER DAY.

FOR PURPOSES OF THIS HEARING, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE JUST A FEW MOMENTS TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF S. 472'S CRIME-FIGHTING PROVISIONS.

FIRST OF ALL, S. 472 ADDRESSES THE ISSUE OF SAFETY ON OUR UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES.

LAST YEAR, CONGRESS PASSED LEGISLATION REQUIRING UNIVERSITIES TO INFORM STUDENTS OF CAMPUS CRIME STATISTICS. S. 472 BUILDS ON THIS APPROACH BY REQUIRING THE DISCLOSURE OF THESE STATISTICS TO THE PARENTS OF STUDENTS AND TO LOCAL POLICE AUTHORITIES.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT MORE DISCLOSURE, MORE INFORMATION, LEADS TO BETTER EDUCATION AND MORE SAFETY.

S. 472 ALSO IMPOSES TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR FEDERAL SEX OFFENDERS -- CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR MURDERS COMMITTED IN THE COURSE OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS AND CHILD MOLESTATIONS, INCREASED PENALTIES FOR RECIDIVIST SEX OFFENDERS, AND A DOUBLING OF THE PENALTY FOR DISTRIBUTING ILLEGAL DRUGS TO PREGNANT WOMEN.

S. 472 REFORMS THE FEDERAL RULES OF EVIDENCE TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT EVIDENCE OF PAST ACTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND CHILD MOLESTATION ARE ADMISSIBLE IN COURT.

SOME OF YOU MAY BE AWARE OF A RECENT DELAWARE SUPREME COURT DECISION OVERTURNING A DEFENDANT'S CONVICTION FOR RAPING HIS 11-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER BECAUSE EVIDENCE OF PAST MOLESTATIONS WAS IMPROPERLY ADMITTED.

(MORE)

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IN MY VIEW, THIS DECISION -- A DECISION BASED ON LEGAL TECHNICALITIES -- IS AN OUTRAGE THAT SHOULD NEVER BE REPEATED IN ANY COURT, ANYWHERE.

IN A PROVISION THAT IS SURE TO CAUSE DISMAY AMONG SOME MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, S. 472 OUTLINES SEVERAL MODEL RULES FOR PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT BY LAWYERS.

THESE RULES MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT LAWYERS SHOULD NEVER ENGAGE IN ANY TRIAL TACTIC DESIGNED SOLELY TO -- HARASS, EMBARRASS, OR HUMILIATE -- A SEX CRIME VICTIM.

LAWYERS HAVE A LOT OF TRICKS IN THEIR LITIGATION BAGS, BUT THE HARASSING TECHNIQUE IS ONE TRICK THAT SHOULD BE BAGGED.

THE MODEL RULES WOULD ALSO REQUIRE -- NOT JUST ALLOW -- LAWYERS TO DISCLOSE NORMALLY CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION IF DISCLOSURE IS NECESSARY TO PREVENT THE COMMISSION OF A SEXUAL ASSAULT OR CHILD MOLESTATION.

IN MY VIEW, THIS DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT IS NOTHING MORE THAN SIMPLE COMMON SENSE.

ON ANOTHER FRONT, THE WOMEN'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT AUTHORIZES \$25 MILLION EACH YEAR -- OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS -- FOR RAPE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION GRANTS UNDER THE VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT OF 1984.

THESE GRANTS WILL PROVIDE SORELY-NEEDED FUNDS FOR RAPE CRISIS CENTERS, HOTLINES, AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR THE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULTS.

AND FINALLY, MR. CHAIRMAN, S. 472 ADDRESSES THE HIDDEN SIDE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN -- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE -- THE VIOLENCE THAT OCCURS IN THE FAMILY HOME.

ONCE AGAIN, THE STATISTICS ARE FRIGHTENING -- AN ESTIMATED 3 MILLION ARE BATTERED EACH YEAR BY THEIR HUSBANDS OR BOYFRIENDS AND MORE THAN 1 MILLION WOMEN SEEK MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ANNUALLY FOR INJURIES CAUSED BY BATTERING.

TO ASSIST THOSE WHO ARE ON THE FRONTLINES AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE -- THE SHELTERS AND LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS THAT PROVIDE CARE TO THE VICTIMS -- S. 472 ADOPTS MANY OF THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT OF 1990, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED LAST YEAR BY SENATOR DAN COATS AND INCORPORATED INTO YOUR BILL, S. 15.

THE WOMEN'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT ALSO AUTHORIZES \$60 MILLION EACH YEAR -- OVER THE NEXT THREE FISCAL YEARS -- FOR THE FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES AND PREVENTION ACT.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, THIS ACT HAS BEEN THE LIFE-BLOOD FOR HUNDREDS OF SHELTERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS WELL-DESERVED.

NEED FOR BIPARTISANSHIP

NOW, MR. CHAIRMAN, I UNDERSTAND THAT S. 15 AUTHORIZES MORE THAN \$500 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR VARIOUS PROGRAMS, INCLUDING SOME OF THE PROGRAMS THAT I HAVE JUST MENTIONED.

I'LL ADMIT -- RIGHT-OFF-THE BAT -- THAT THE WOMEN'S EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ACT CANNOT COMPETE WITH S. 15 WHEN IT COMES TO THE FUNDING GAME.

PERHAPS THIS IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE PHILOSOPHICAL DIFFERENCES DIVIDING THE TWO PARTIES.

BUT I DO WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN VIOLENT CRIME -- AND PARTICULARLY CRIME AGAINST WOMEN -- DO NOT CHECK VOTER REGISTRATIONS OR PARTY LABELS BEFORE COMMITTING THE MISDEED.

THIS IS NOT A REPUBLICAN ISSUE. AND IT'S NOT A DEMOCRATIC ISSUE.

IT'S AN ISSUE THAT -- UNFORTUNATELY -- AFFECTS MILLIONS OF AMERICAN WOMEN -- DEMOCRAT AND REPUBLICAN -- IN EVERY REGION OF THE COUNTRY AND FROM VERY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CLASS.

SO, IN THE DAYS AND WEEKS AHEAD, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND WITH MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES TO DEVELOP A BIPARTISAN PACKAGE THAT WE CAN PASS THIS YEAR, AND ONE THAT -- ULTIMATELY -- WILL BE SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT.

THAT'S MY COMMITMENT TO YOU TODAY.

AND THAT'S THE LEAST WE CAN DO FOR THE MILLIONS OF AMERICAN WOMEN WHO HAVE HAD TO CONFRONT THE UGLY REALITIES OF STREET CRIME AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN AND SENATOR THURMOND, FOR YOUR TIME THIS MORNING.

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