

locates the root of the problem in financial management: “[O]ur work shows that outlandish charges or very large reimbursements routinely escape the controls and typically go unquestioned.” Even when fraudulent billing is discovered, Medicare usually has paid out the money and rarely acts effectively to recover it.

Together the Department of Defense, the IRS, and the Medicare Program are just a small part of a government so massive and complex that it controls and directs cash resources of almost \$2 trillion per year, issuing 900 million checks and maintaining a payroll and benefits system for over 5 million government employees. Clearly it is imperative that the government use a uniform and widely accepted set of accounting standards across the hundreds of agencies and departments that make up this government.

Today we are taking a great step toward putting Federal financial management in order. The Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 requires that all Federal agencies implement and maintain uniform accounting standards. The result will be more accurate and reliable information for program managers and leaders in Congress, meaning better decisions will be made: tax dollars will be put to better use, and a measure of confidence in the government will be restored. While this is not the kind of legislation that makes headlines, it is of great significance and I am proud that the Senate has passed it. I am very grateful to Senator STEVENS for steering the bill through his Committee.

Mr. GLENN. Mr. President, over the last 6 years, we have enacted several laws to improve Federal agency financial management. The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 put into place the first requirements for agencies to prepare annual audited financial statements. These requirements were strengthened by the Government Management Reform Act of 1994, and now all the major agencies are covered by the CFO Act requirements.

In oversight hearings conducted by the Governmental Affairs Committee, both when I was Chair and now as Ranking Minority Member, we have seen how these laws are making significant improvements in agency financial management. Unfortunately, we also have seen that many agencies still have a ways to go to make the necessary reforms.

The legislation before us today, the “Federal Financial Management Improvement Act” (S. 1130), which I cosponsored, helps agencies go those final miles to put into place necessary financial management systems and provide real accountability for the expenditure of public funds.

The legislation addresses the financial management systems that are needed to provide financial accountability. Annual financial statements will not do it alone, if agencies do not have the systems or personnel in place

to account for their financial operations. Accordingly, the bill requires agencies to comply with applicable accounting standards and systems requirements.

The legislation further requires auditors to identify agencies with deficient financial management systems. This puts added teeth in the CFO Act financial statement process, and will lead to practical remediation steps, to be overseen by OMB. I am concerned, however, that the legislation’s requirements for auditors to identify officials responsible for agency financial systems may have the untoward consequence of intimidating our civil servants.

If this requirement is used to identify specific decisions that have frustrated the development of needed financial management reforms, it will be a success. It will also be a success if it creates incentives for improved training for financial management personnel. If, however, it is used to unfairly blame managers who are constrained by resource or policy decisions made above them, whether in the agency or by Congress, then we will have to revisit this requirement. At this point, however, I believe that on balance the time has come to demand more accountability from our agencies and agency officials for their financial management performance.

I commend Senator BROWN for introducing this bill and for working with us in Committee to improve it. I believe the “Federal Financial Management Improvement Act” is important legislation and will work to improve agency financial management. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute be agreed to, the bill be deemed read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement relating to this bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1130), as amended, was deemed read the third time and passed.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT OF 1996

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of calendar 542, S. 1873.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1873) to amend the National Environmental Education Act to extend programs under the Act, and for other purposes.

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

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment to strike all after

the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Environmental Education Amendments Act of 1996”.

SEC. 2. OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

Section 4 of the National Environmental Education Act (20 U.S.C. 5503) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1) by inserting after “support” the following: “balanced and scientifically sound”;

(B) by striking paragraph (6);

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (7) through (13) as paragraphs (6) through (12), respectively; and

(D) in paragraph (12) (as so redesignated), by inserting before the period the following: “through the headquarters and the regional offices of the Agency”; and

(2) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) STAFF.—The Office of Environmental Education shall—

“(1) include a headquarters staff of not more than 10 full-time equivalent employees; and

“(2) be supported by 1 full-time equivalent employee in each Agency regional office.

“(d) ACTIVITIES.—The Administrator may carry out the activities specified in subsection (b) directly or through awards of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts.”.

SEC. 3. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION GRANTS.

Section 6 of the National Environmental Education Act (20 U.S.C. 5505) is amended—

(1) in the second sentence of subsection (i), by striking “25 percent” and inserting “15 percent”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(j) LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.—A grant under this section may not be used to support a lobbying activity (as described in the documents issued by the Office of Management and Budget and designated as OMB Circulars No. A-21 and No. A-122).”.

SEC. 4. ENVIRONMENTAL INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Environmental Education Act is amended—

(1) by striking section 7 (20 U.S.C. 5506); and

(2) by redesignating sections 8 through 11 (20 U.S.C. 5507 through 5510) as sections 7 through 10, respectively.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The National Environmental Education Act is amended—

(1) in the table of contents in section 1(b) (20 U.S.C. prec. 5501)—

(A) by striking the item relating to section 7; and

(B) by redesignating the items relating to sections 8 through 11 as items relating to sections 7 through 10, respectively;

(2) in section 4(b) (20 U.S.C. 5503(b))—

(A) in paragraph (6) (as redesignated by section 2(1)(C)), by striking “section 8 of this Act” and inserting “section 7”; and

(B) in paragraph (7) (as so redesignated), by striking “section 9 of this Act” and inserting “section 8”;

(3) in section 6(c)(3) (20 U.S.C. 5505(c)(3)), by striking “section 9(d) of this Act” and inserting “section 8(d)”;

(4) in the matter preceding subsection (c)(3)(A) of section 9 (as redesignated by subsection (a)(2)), by striking “section 10(a) of this Act” and inserting “subsection (a)”;

(5) in subsection (c)(2) of section 10 (as redesignated by subsection (a)(2)), by striking “section 10(d) of this Act” and inserting “section 9(d)”.

SEC. 5. NATIONAL EDUCATION AWARDS.

Section 7 of the National Environmental Education Act (as redesignated by section 4(a)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 7. NATIONAL EDUCATION AWARDS.

“The Administrator may provide for awards to be known as the ‘President’s Environmental

Youth Awards' to be given to young people in grades kindergarten through 12 for outstanding projects to promote local environmental awareness."

SEC. 6. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL AND TASK FORCE.

Section 8 of the National Environmental Education Act (as redesignated by section 4(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2), by striking the first and second sentences and inserting the following: "The Advisory Council shall consist of not more than 11 members appointed by the Administrator after consultation with the Secretary. To the extent practicable, the Administrator shall appoint to the Advisory Council at least 1 representative from each of the following sectors: primary and secondary education; colleges and universities; not-for-profit organizations involved in environmental education; State departments of education and natural resources; business and industry; and senior Americans.";

(2) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) MEMBERSHIP.—Membership on the Task Force shall be open to representatives of any Federal agency actively engaged in environmental education.";

(3) in subsection (d), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(1) BIENNIAL MEETINGS.—The Advisory Council shall hold a biennial meeting on timely issues regarding environmental education and issue a report and recommendations on the proceedings of the meeting."

SEC. 7. NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOUNDATION.

(a) CHANGE IN NAME.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The first sentence of subsection (a)(1)(A) of section 9 of the National Environmental Education Act (as redesignated by section 4(a)(2)) is amended by striking "National Environmental Education and Training Foundation" and inserting "Foundation for Environmental Education".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The National Environmental Education Act (20 U.S.C. 5501 et seq.) is amended—

(A) in the item relating to section 9 (as redesignated by section 4(b)(1)(B)) of the table of contents in section 1(b) (20 U.S.C. prec. 5501), by striking "National Environmental Education and Training Foundation" and inserting "Foundation for Environmental Education";

(B) in section 3 (20 U.S.C. 5502)—

(i) by striking paragraph (12) and inserting the following:

"(12) FOUNDATION.—'Foundation' means the Foundation for Environmental Education established by section 9; and";

(ii) in paragraph (13), by striking "National Environmental Education and Training Foundation" and inserting "Foundation for Environmental Education";

(C) in the heading of section 9 (as redesignated by section 4(a)(2)), by striking "NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOUNDATION" and inserting "FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION";

(D) in subsection (c) of section 10 (as redesignated by section 4(a)(2)), by striking "National Environmental Education and Training Foundation" and inserting "Foundation for Environmental Education".

(b) BOARD OF DIRECTORS; NUMBER OF DIRECTORS.—The first sentence of subsection (b)(1)(A) of section 9 of the National Environmental Education Act (as redesignated by section 4(a)(2)) is amended by striking "13" and inserting "19".

(c) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DONATIONS.—Section 9(d) of the National Environmental Education Act (as redesignated by section 4(a)(2)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

"(3) ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF DONORS.—The Foundation may acknowledge receipt of dona-

tions by means of a listing of the names of donors in materials distributed by the Foundation, but any such acknowledgment—

"(A) shall not appear in educational material to be presented to students; and

"(B) shall not identify a donor by means of a logo, letterhead, or other corporate commercial symbol, slogan, or product."

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 10 of the National Environmental Education Act (as redesignated by section 4(a)(2)) is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out this Act—

"(1) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002; and

"(2) such sums as are necessary for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

"(b) LIMITATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), of the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year—

"(A) not more than 25 percent may be used for the activities of the Office of Environmental Education;

"(B) not more than 25 percent may be used for the operation of the environmental education and training program;

"(C) not less than 40 percent shall be used for environmental education grants; and

"(D) 10 percent shall be used for the Foundation for Environmental Education.

"(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year for the activities of the Office of Environmental Education, not more than 25 percent may be used for administrative expenses."

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect as of the later of—

(1) October 1, 1996; or

(2) the date of enactment of this Act.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today the Senate is passing an important piece of legislation, S. 1873, the National Environmental Education Act amendments. I introduced this bill on June 13 along with my colleagues, Senators CHAFEE, LIEBERMAN, FAIRCLOTH, KEMPTHORNE, MOYNIHAN, REID, and LUGAR. Since that date nine more senators have joined me in this bipartisan show of support for this legislation.

This bill will reauthorize the educational efforts at the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation and the EPA's Office of Environmental Education. These programs support environmental education at the local level. They provide grant money and seed money to encourage local primary and secondary schools and universities to educate children on environmental issues.

With the importance of the environment and the continuing debate on how best to protect it, it is vital to educate our children so that they truly understand how the environment functions.

Over the last few years environmental education has been criticized for being one-sided and heavy-handed. People have accused environmental advocates of trying to brainwash children and of pushing an environmental agenda that is not supported by the facts or by science. They also accuse the Federal Government of setting one curriculum standard and forcing all schools to subscribe to their views.

This is not how these two environmental education programs have worked, and I have taken specific steps to ensure that they never work this way.

The programs that this act reauthorizes have targeted the majority of their grants at the local level, allowing the teachers in our community schools to design their environmental programs to teach our children, and this is where the decisions should be made. In addition, the grants have not been used for advocacy or to lobby the Government, as other grant programs have been accused of doing.

This legislation accomplishes two important functions. First, it cleans up the current law to make the programs run more efficiently. And second, it places two very important safeguards in the program to ensure its integrity in the future.

I have placed in this bill language to ensure that the EPA programs are balanced and scientifically sound. It is important that environmental education is presented in an unbiased and balanced manner. The personal values and prejudices of the educators should not be instilled in our children. Instead we must teach them to think for themselves after they have been presented with all of the facts and information. Environmental ideas must be grounded in sound science and not emotional bias. While these programs have not been guilty of this in the past, this is an important safeguard to protect the future of environmental education.

Second, I have included language which prohibits any of the funds to be used for lobbying efforts. While these programs have not used the grant process to lobby the Government, there are other programs which have been accused of this and this language will ensure that this program never becomes a vehicle to lobby Congress or the Executive branch.

This bill also makes a number of housekeeping changes to the programs which are supported by both the EPA and the Education Foundation which will both streamline the programs and make them more efficient.

For those people who remain concerned about the Federal role in environmental education let me assure everyone that I will be personally monitoring these programs. If there are abuses or questionable grants or programs I will be the first to call for an investigation or to invoke the oversight functions of Congress. Educating our children is a serious matter and should not be abused by anyone. It is my intent and goal that these programs provide objective material in a balanced and scientifically sound manner that does not instill any particular viewpoint in our Nation's youths. We need to teach our children the facts and let them reach their own conclusions, and I believe this bill accomplishes this goal.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this bill and I hope the House can act

quickly and this legislation can be signed into law.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I join Senator INHOFE in urging the Senate to pass S. 1873, the National Environmental Education Act Amendments of 1996. I commend Senator INHOFE for his leadership on this bill. Mr. INHOFE and other members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee have crafted a reauthorization of the National Environmental Education Act of 1990. It is a bipartisan bill sponsored by 11 members of the Environment and Public Works Committee, including myself and Senators INHOFE, BAUCUS, LIEBERMAN, FAIRCLOTH, KEMPTHORNE, MOYNIHAN, REID, LAUTENBERG, SMITH, and GRAHAM.

S. 1873 extends the authorization for programs authorized by the National Environmental Education Act until 2007. The bill also includes a number of changes to make programs authorized under the act operate more effectively and efficiently.

The goal of the National Environmental Education Act is to increase public understanding of the environment and to advance and develop environmental education and training.

The act has been successful in supporting environmental education through grants and training programs aimed at schools, nature centers, museums, and other educational organizations. The act has benefited thousands of teachers and millions of students—children and adults.

Educational programs supported through this act increase the public's awareness and knowledge about environmental issues, and provide them with the skills needed to make informed decisions.

I urge my colleagues to support passage of this important environmental education legislation.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee substitute be agreed to, the bill be deemed read the third time, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this bill appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1873), as amended, was deemed read the third time and passed.

AUTHORIZING PRODUCTION OF RECORDS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of a Senate resolution 287 submitted earlier today by Senators LOTT and DASCHLE.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 287) to authorize the production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

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

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations has received a request from the New Jersey Attorney General's Office for copies of subcommittee records relevant to a background investigation that the office is conducting in connection with a solid waste disposal company's licensing application.

In the course of drug enforcement hearings in the mid-1970's, the subcommittee investigated allegations relating to an individual who was then a Federal drug enforcement official and is now a principal in the solid waste firm seeking licensure from the State of New Jersey. The Attorney General's Office is seeking access to subcommittee records to enable the office to fulfill its responsibilities under State law to conduct a thorough background investigation of this individual.

Mr. President, this resolution would authorize the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, acting jointly, to provide subcommittee records in response to this request.

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to this resolution appear at this point in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 287) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 287

Whereas the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey has requested that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations provide it with copies of subcommittee records in connection with a licensing investigation that the office is currently conducting;

Whereas by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate can, by administrative or judicial process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas when it appears that documents, papers, and records under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistently with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the chairman and ranking minority member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, acting jointly, are authorized to provide to the office of the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey copies of subcommittee records that the office has requested for use in connection with its pending licensing investigation.

DAY OF NATIONAL CONCERN ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE AND GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary

Committee be discharged from further consideration of Senate Resolution 282, designating October 10, 1996, as "Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence," and that the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 282) to designate October 10, 1996, as the "Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence."

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

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

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution and preamble be agreed to, en bloc, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; further, that any statements relating thereto be placed in the RECORD at the appropriate place as if read.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 282) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 282

Whereas violent crime among juveniles in American society has dramatically escalated in recent years;

Whereas between 1989 and 1994, juvenile arrest rates for murder in this country skyrocketed 42 percent;

Whereas in 1993, more than 10 children were murdered each day in America;

Whereas America's young people are this country's most important resource, and Americans have a vested interest in helping children survive, free from fear and violence, to become healthy adults;

Whereas America's young people can, by taking individual and collective responsibility for their own decisions and actions, help chart a new and less violent direction for the entire country;

Whereas American school children will be invited to participate in a national observance involving millions of their fellow students and will thereby be empowered to see themselves as the agents of positive social change; and

Whereas this observance will give American school children the opportunity to make a solemn decision about their future and control their destiny by voluntarily signing a pledge promising that they will never take a gun to school, will never use a gun to resolve a dispute, and will use their influence to prevent friends from using guns to settle disputes: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates October 10, 1996, as the "Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence". The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the school children of the United States to observe such day with appropriate activities.

NATIONAL SILVER HAired CONGRESS

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate