

sends a child to private school is paying for public school through the property taxes. There is no money diverted.

Now, what is the real story? Because it isn't any of this other it cannot substantiate. The real opposition is that some families, in the big picture statistically insignificant, but some families will open a savings account and will make a decision to use the account to pay for tuition in a private school. Some parents will do that, and that is the rub.

That is the reason the President said last year, "I'll veto the tax bill if this idea is in it." That is the reason, when we brought this bill to the floor last year, the other side filibustered it. And that is the reason we cannot even get to this bill today, because the other side is filibustering it, because some handful of families, using their own money, would make a decision that they need to put their child in a different school.

And, Heaven forbid, Washington has to stand in their way with a roadblock, a filibuster. By trying to keep those few families, whoever they would be, from doing that, they would snatch \$2.5 billion out of helping children in public schools, they would snatch \$2.5 billion away from families trying to help their children in private or home schools.

They would cause 14 million savings accounts never to open. They would deny all those corporations that could contribute to the accounts, all those parents and grandparents, all the matching ideas that would participate in these accounts, they would disallow it, stop it.

Millions of families will be denied, 20 million-plus children will not have the benefit of this redirection of family resources, thousands of public school teachers will not become tutors, hundreds of thousands of home computers will not show up in the home, inner city schools where they only have 15 percent of the population with home computers will stay 15 percent instead of going up because we have generated a pool of money to buy those computers. And they will have done it in the name of keeping a handful of families from making a decision that they want to move from one school to another.

That, Mr. President, is what this filibuster is all about. It is outrageous. Unbelievably, unfortunately, if they are ultimately successful, the mountains of good where everybody succeeds and wins will be packed away in some closet on some shelf over that thread of concern. It shows you, Mr. President, the depth of despair of the status quo, that they would come to this point and deny all that good over that single point.

#### MOTION TO PROCEED WITHDRAWN

Mr. President, I now withdraw the motion to proceed to H.R. 2646.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now

be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

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

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Thursday, March 12, 1998, the federal debt stood at \$5,529,750,398,747.62 (Five trillion, five hundred twenty-nine billion, seven hundred fifty million, three hundred ninety-eight thousand, seven hundred forty-seven dollars and sixty-two cents).

One year ago, March 12, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,361,483,000,000 (Five trillion, three hundred sixty-one billion, four hundred eighty-three million).

Five years ago, March 12, 1993, the federal debt stood at \$4,211,673,000,000 (Four trillion, two hundred eleven billion, six hundred seventy-three million).

Twenty-five years ago, March 12, 1973, the federal debt stood at \$455,864,000,000 (Four hundred fifty-five billion, eight hundred sixty-four million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,073,886,398,747.62 (Five trillion, seventy-three billion, eight hundred eighty-six million, three hundred ninety-eight thousand, seven hundred forty-seven dollars and sixty-two cents) during the past 25 years.

#### THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS ACT OF 1998

S. 1754, the Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998, was introduced on March 12, 1998, but was not available for printing. The text of the bill is as follows:

##### S. 1754

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

##### Subtitle A—Health Professions Education Programs

Sec. 101. Under-represented minority health professions grant program.

Sec. 102. Training in primary care medicine and dentistry.

Sec. 103. Interdisciplinary, community-based linkages.

Sec. 104. Health professions workforce information and analysis.

Sec. 105. Public health workforce development.

Sec. 106. General provisions.

Sec. 107. Preference in certain programs.

Sec. 108. Definitions.

Sec. 109. Technical amendment on National Health Service Corps.

Sec. 110. Savings provision.

#### Subtitle B—Nursing Workforce Development

Sec. 121. Short title.

Sec. 122. Purpose.

Sec. 123. Amendments to Public Health Service Act.

Sec. 124. Savings provision.

##### Subtitle C—Financial Assistance

#### CHAPTER 1—SCHOOL-BASED REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS

Sec. 131. Primary care loan program.

Sec. 132. Loans for disadvantaged students.

Sec. 133. Student loans regarding schools of nursing.

Sec. 134. General provisions.

#### CHAPTER 2—INSURED HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS TO GRADUATE STUDENTS

Sec. 141. Health Education Assistance Loan Program.

Sec. 142. Lender and holder performance standards.

Sec. 143. Reauthorization.

Sec. 144. HEAL bankruptcy.

Sec. 145. HEAL refinancing.

#### TITLE II—OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH

Sec. 201. Revision and extension of programs of Office of Minority Health.

##### TITLE III—SELECTED INITIATIVES

Sec. 301. State offices of rural health.

Sec. 302. Demonstration projects regarding Alzheimer's Disease.

Sec. 303. Project grants for immunization services.

##### TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Technical corrections regarding Public Law 103-183.

Sec. 402. Miscellaneous amendments regarding PHS commissioned officers.

Sec. 403. Clinical traineeships.

Sec. 404. Project grants for screenings, referrals, and education regarding lead poisoning.

Sec. 405. Project grants for preventive health services regarding tuberculosis.

Sec. 406. Certain authorities of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Sec. 407. Community programs on domestic violence.

Sec. 408. State loan repayment program.

Sec. 409. Construction of regional centers for research on primates.

Sec. 410. Peer review.

Sec. 411. Funding for trauma care.

Sec. 412. Health information and health promotion.

Sec. 413. Emergency medical services for children.

Sec. 414. Administration of certain requirements.

Sec. 415. Aids drug assistance program.

#### TITLE I—HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

##### Subtitle A—Health Professions Education Programs

#### SEC. 101. UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

##### "PART B—HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING FOR DIVERSITY

##### "SEC. 736. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to designated health professions schools described in subsection (c) for the purpose of assisting the schools in supporting programs of excellence in health professions education for under-represented minority individuals.