

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ENTITLED "CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION AND TEACHER QUALITY ACT OF 1998"—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 123

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit today for your immediate consideration and enactment the "Class-Size Reduction and Teacher Quality Act of 1998." This legislative proposal would help States and local school districts recruit, train, and hire 100,000 additional well-prepared teachers in order to reduce the average class size to 18 in grades 1 through 3 in our Nation's public schools. It is an essential part of our overall effort to strengthen public schools throughout the Nation.

As schools across the Nation struggle to accommodate a surge in enrollments, educators and parents have become increasingly concerned about the impact of class size on teaching and learning, particularly in the critically important early grades, where students learn reading and other basic skills. This concern is justified: rigorous research confirms what parents and teachers have long believed—that students in smaller classes, especially in the early grades, make greater educational gains and maintain those gains over time. These gains occur because teachers in small classes can provide students with more individualized attention, spend more time on instruction and less time on discipline, and cover more material effectively. Moreover, the benefits of smaller classes are greatest for poor, minority, and inner-city children, the children who often face the greatest challenges in meeting high educational standards.

Smaller classes will have the greatest impact on student learning if the new teachers brought into the classroom are well qualified to teach reading and to take advantage of smaller learning environments. For this reason, my proposal emphasizes not just class-size reduction but also professional development for educators, and it will give school districts adequate time to recruit and train staff while phasing in smaller classes. Furthermore, all new teachers hired under the program would be required to pass a State teacher competency test and would also have to be certified to teach or be making satisfactory progress toward full certification.

We can help all of our students learn to read independently and well by the third grade, get a solid foundation in basic skills, and reach high educational

standards if we start them off with small classes and well-prepared teachers in the early grades.

Under my proposal, the Department of Education would provide \$20.8 billion in mandatory appropriations over a 10-year period (beginning with \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 1999) to States. The States would then distribute the funds to local school districts based on their relative class sizes in grades 1 through 3, as well as on their ability and effort to finance class-size reductions with their own resources. The bill would provide States with considerable flexibility in distributing these funds, while ensuring that the most needy school districts receive a fair share.

Moreover, because my proposal would actually appropriate the funds needed to carry out the program, States and local communities could count on these funds without the need for separate congressional appropriations each year. This proposal is fully paid for within my Fiscal Year 1999 Budget, and therefore would not reduce the budget surplus.

School districts would use these funds to reduce class sizes in grades 1 through 3. Just as importantly, these funds would also be available for a variety of activities to ensure that students in the early grades receive sound and effective instruction, such as making sure that teachers know how to teach reading and other subjects effectively in small classes.

This proposal includes strong accountability for results. Participating school districts would produce "report cards" documenting reductions in class sizes and the achievement of their students in reading, based on rigorous assessments. Schools whose students fail to make gains in reading would be required to undertake corrective actions. In addition, the Department of Education would undertake a comprehensive national evaluation of this program and its impact on reading achievement and teaching.

I urge the Congress to take prompt and favorable action on this proposal. Its enactment would help school districts reduce class sizes in the early grades and improve instruction and achievement in reading, issues that are of major importance to parents and to the Nation.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 8, 1998.

REPORT CONCERNING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF BUILDING SCIENCES FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 124

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the requirements of section 809 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (12 U.S.C. 1701j-2(j)), I transmit herewith the annual report of the National Institute of Building Sciences for fiscal year 1996.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, May 11, 1998.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on, May 8, 1998, he presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1502. An act entitled the "District of Columbia Student Opportunity Scholarship Act of 1998."

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4838. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Waste Management System; Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste; Recycled Used Oil Management Standards" (FRL-5969-4) received on April 27, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4839. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York State Implementation Plan Revision" received on May 1, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4840. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Category: Pulp and Paper Production; Effluent Limitations Guidelines, Pretreatment Standards, and New Source Performance Standards: Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Category" (FRL5924-8) received on April 15, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4841. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of seven rules regarding acid rain, herbicide residues, pesticide ingredients, fungicide residues, vehicle inspection, halogenated solvents and emissions reduction (FRL6006-2, FRL5788-1, FRL5787-9, FRL5788-5, FRL6007-3, FRL6007-5, FRL6004-5) received on April 29, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4842. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of four rules regarding the clean fuel fleet program, Clean Air Act implementation plans, gaseous fueled vehicles and engines, and bioaccumulative chemicals (FRL5994-5, FRL5979-4, FRL5999-7, FRL5999-8) received on April 16, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4843. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management