

VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution. The yeas and nays have been ordered on S. Res. 45.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 99, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 27 Leg.]

YEAS—99

Abraham	Enzi	Lott
Akaka	Feingold	Lugar
Allard	Feinstein	Mack
Ashcroft	Fitzgerald	McCain
Baucus	Frist	McConnell
Bayh	Gorton	Mikulski
Bennett	Graham	Moynihan
Biden	Gramm	Murkowski
Bingaman	Grams	Murray
Bond	Grassley	Nickles
Boxer	Gregg	Reed
Breaux	Hagel	Reid
Brownback	Harkin	Robb
Bryan	Hatch	Roberts
Bunning	Helms	Rockefeller
Burns	Hollings	Roth
Byrd	Hutchinson	Santorum
Campbell	Hutchison	Sarbanes
Chafee	Inhofe	Schumer
Cleland	Inouye	Sessions
Cochran	Jeffords	Shelby
Collins	Johnson	Smith (NH)
Conrad	Kennedy	Smith (OR)
Coverdell	Kerrey	Snowe
Craig	Kerry	Specter
Crapo	Kohl	Stevens
Daschle	Kyl	Thomas
DeWine	Landrieu	Thompson
Dodd	Lautenberg	Thurmond
Domenici	Leahy	Voinovich
Dorgan	Levin	Warner
Durbin	Lieberman	Wellstone
Edwards	Lincoln	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Torricelli

The resolution (S. Res. 45) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 45

Whereas the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland, provides a forum for discussing human rights and expressing international support for improved human rights performance;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State and international human rights organizations, the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in China and Tibet and continues the coercive implementation of family planning policies and the sale of human organs taken from executed prisoners;

Whereas such abuses stem from an intolerance of dissent and fear of civil unrest on the part of authorities in the People's Republic of China and from a failure to adequately enforce laws in the People's Republic of China that protect basic freedoms;

Whereas such abuses violate internationally accepted norms of conduct enshrined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Whereas the People's Republic of China recently signed the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, but has yet to take the steps necessary to make the covenant legally binding;

Whereas the President decided not to sponsor a resolution criticizing the People's Re-

public of China at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in 1998 in consideration of commitments by the Government of the People's Republic of China to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and based on a belief that progress on human rights in the People's Republic of China could be achieved through other means;

Whereas authorities in the People's Republic of China have recently escalated efforts to extinguish expressions of protest or criticism and have detained scores of citizens associated with attempts to organize a legal democratic opposition, as well as religious leaders, writers, and others who petitioned the authorities to release those arbitrarily arrested; and

Whereas these efforts underscore that the Government of the People's Republic of China continues to commit serious human rights abuses, despite expectations to the contrary following two summit meetings between President Clinton and President Jiang in which assurances were made regarding improvements in the human rights record of the People's Republic of China: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that at the 55th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, the United States should introduce and make all efforts necessary to pass a resolution calling upon the People's Republic of China to end its human rights abuses in China and Tibet.

Mr. FRIST. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minute each.

The distinguished Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Under a previous agreement, this time has been allotted to Senator COVERDELL or his designee, and I have been designated to oversee this next 45 minutes to an hour to talk about the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we will be discussing two critical areas as we address the education of our youth in this country. Those two areas are flexibility and accountability. Discussing this topic with me will be Senators CHAFEE, BOND, CRAIG, VOINOVICH, GREGG, HUTCHINSON, and COLLINS.

The issue that we will discuss is called Ed-Flex. Specifically, it is the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999. The shorthand version is "Ed-Flex." That is the way it will be referred to, I am sure, over the next several hours and the next several days as we look at this particular bill which I expect to come to the floor next week.

Let me begin by discussing what Ed-Flex is so people will know what we are

talking about. It is really pretty simple. Ed-Flex is a State waiver program that allows schools and school districts at the local level to obtain or have the opportunity to obtain a waiver to carry out and accomplish a specific educational mission, but with flexibility free of Washington red tape, free of the administrative regulatory burden which too often—and we hear it as we travel across the State again and again—shackles them in terms of meeting those specific goals. These regulations are often well intentioned. We create them right here in this room in Washington, DC, and then we expect them to fit every local community. They simply don't fit. That is No. 1. That is what Ed-Flex is.

No. 2, we as a country recognize we are failing our children today in terms of education. We are trying hard, teachers are trying hard, local schools are trying hard, but we simply are not doing the job that our children deserve in preparing them for the next millennium.

Ed-Flex allows every State the option of participating in a demonstration program which has been enormously successful; this program was first established in 1994 and expanded in 1996. So we have a track record. Right now Ed-Flex is in 12 States. What this bill does is strengthen the accountability provisions and then gives all 50 States the opportunity to participate in Ed-Flex to help our States, to help our localities.

Education is primarily a local issue. That is where these decisions should be made. Washington must give these localities, these schools, these school districts, the flexibility they need in order to innovate, to do a better job, to do what they know is best.

Let me cite some examples that really make it clear to people. They understand Ed-Flex is a State waiver program that allows schools and school districts to accomplish goals free of red tape. Here are some examples:

In Maryland, Ed-Flex reduced class size for math and science students from 25 to 1 to 12 to 1. It has cut it in half. They wouldn't have been able to do it without Ed-Flex.

In Oregon, Ed-Flex allowed high schools and community colleges to work together to provide advanced computer courses to students who would otherwise not be able to receive this technical instruction.

A third example: In Kansas, waivers provide all-day kindergarten, preschool for 4-year-olds, and new reading strategies for all students. It would not be possible without Ed-Flex.

It is common sense. It is bipartisan. It is a plan that has been supported by every Governor in this country. It is one that we are going to move ahead, doing the Nation's business in a bipartisan way to accomplish what I believe is one of the most important goals before us, and that is to improve education in this country.