

legislation that would provide for financial incentive for troops involved, particularly those who reenlist in areas of the world such as Korea where they are separated from their families for long periods of time. It is one of the most difficult places in the military, we are told by the commanders, in which to recruit and especially re-recruit men and women to serve terms of duty because of the hardships, because of the additional costs that have to be borne because usually their families are left behind and that involves two parallel tracks of expenses—separation and phone bills. Senator SESSIONS and I proposed an income tax exemption for troops who serve in far-flung areas of the world such as Korea. I will renew my efforts this year to see that legislation enacted because it is the least we can do and the least that is deserved by these brave men and women.

The commanders in those areas have asserted it would be invaluable in recruiting efforts.

I see the real leader and the commander of the Senate when it comes to the Armed Services, my very distinguished chairman of the committee on which I am proud to serve, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Senator from Virginia.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WARNER. Before my colleague departs, I commend him for the interest the Senator has taken in the men and women of the Armed Forces, the national security policy of this country as a Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Well done, sir.

I have been privileged to be on that committee now, this being my 25th year in the Senate, and the personal rewards from it for the association that the Senator has as a member of the committee with the men and women in uniform is beyond expectation. I thank the Senator for his service.

(The remarks of Mr. WARNER and Mr. DAYTON pertaining to the introduction of S. 951 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. WARNER. I thank the Presiding Officer for his courtesies, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

DIGITAL AND WIRELESS NETWORK TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 2003

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will proceed to the consideration of S. 196. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 196) to establish a digital and wireless network technology program, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the committee amendments are agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 532

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Virginia [Mr. ALLEN], for himself, Mr. HOLLINGS, and Mr. MCCAIN, proposes an amendment numbered 532.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure that the assistance is focused on supporting science, mathematics, engineering, and technology at eligible institutions, and provide for appropriate review of grant proposals)

On page 2, strike lines 2 and 3, and insert the following:

This Act may be cited as the "Minority Serving Institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2003".

On page 2, line 6, insert "Minority Serving Institution" before "Digital".

On page 2, line 7, strike "Network".

On page 3, strike lines 1 through 5, and insert the following:

(2) to develop and provide educational services, including faculty development, related to science, mathematics, engineering, or technology;

On page 3, line 18, after "development" insert "in science, mathematics, engineering, or technology".

On page 4, line 18, after "accept" insert "and review".

On page 4, line 24, strike "section 3." and insert section 3, and for reviewing and evaluating proposals submitted to the program."

On page 5, line 7, after "issues." insert "Any panel assembled to review a proposal submitted to the program shall include members from minority serving institutions. Program review criteria shall include consideration of—

(1) demonstrated need for assistance under this Act; and

(2) diversity among the types of institutions receiving assistance under this Act."

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the managers' amendment be agreed to on S. 196.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 532) was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour for debate to be equally divided by the Senator from Virginia, Mr. ALLEN, and the ranking member, with 5 minutes of the time under majority control for the Senator from Arizona, Mr. MCCAIN.

The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, Senator MCCAIN, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, is tied up right now, but I thank him for his thoughtful leadership and his continued effort and dedication on this important bipartisan measure.

I rise today to respectfully urge my colleagues to support S. 196, the minority-serving institution Digital and Wireless Technology Opportunity Act of 2003. This legislation will provide vital resources to address the technology gap that exists at many minority-serving institutions. It establishes a new grant program within the National Science Foundation that provides annually for 5 years up to \$250 million to help historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, and tribal colleges to close what is often called the digital divide, when, in fact, what it really is is an "economic opportunity divide."

Since the days before I was elected to the Senate, my goal was to look for ways to improve education and empower all our young people, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religious beliefs, or their economic background, so that they can compete and succeed in life.

Additionally, I strongly believe we need to embrace the advancements and innovations in technology—especially as a means to provide greater opportunities or security for Americans.

In my view, increasing access to technology provides our young people with an important tool for success, both in the classroom and in the workforce.

We all know that the best jobs in the future will go to those who are the best prepared. However, I am increasingly concerned that when it comes to high-technology jobs, which pay higher wages, this country runs the risk of economically limiting many college students in our society. It is important for all Americans that we close this opportunity gap.

Now, we know the demand for workers with skills in science and technology continues to grow. Unfortunately, since 1996, the number of bachelor degrees awarded in the physical sciences has dropped 29 percent, mathematics is down 19 percent, and engineering is down 21 percent.

We also know that information technology companies are still relying on H-1B visas and using foreign workers to fill important IT jobs and positions. I want to be clear that I am not against legal immigration, but I say let's properly educate and train Americans so they can get those good high-technology jobs.

Now, minority-serving institutions, when one looks at them, still lack desired information and digital technology infrastructure in many cases. I encourage my colleagues to read the Commerce Committee report findings on minority-serving institutions' technology deficiencies.