

Mr. President, \$2,727,000 is a huge loss in money for the disadvantaged children of the State of Minnesota, meaning that less than half—less than half—of all the children in my State who are eligible for title I funding are actually going to get services provided to them. And that is no child left behind? That is a fraud. That is adequate funding for No Child Left Behind? That is a lie. That is a lie.

In this room I have heard it said several times: There is plenty of money for title I. There is plenty of money for No Child Left Behind. Not for Minnesota. We were underfunded before, and it is being cut back now. We are one of two States being cut. I ask the Secretary of Education: I want to know why. Come back to Minnesota, Mr. Secretary, now that you have the facts, evidently. Come back to Minnesota and meet with those educators and tell them why, why our money is being cut back.

The chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee has stood on this floor—and I have had this debate with him; he is not here presently, but I look forward to that opportunity again in the future—saying there is additional money available to the States under No Child Left Behind. In fact, there is so much additional money that some States don't know what to do with it all.

Well, I can see why that distinguished Senator made that statement, because in his home State, over the last 5 years, they have experienced a 44-percent increase in funding under title I. In this next year, they are going to receive an increase of almost the same \$2.5 million which Minnesota is going to lose. They will receive an 8.1-percent increase in title I funding, whereas we will experience a reduction of over \$2,727,000.

So I guess for some States this is a good deal because they are getting more money. I am glad they are, if they have that additional need. But the State of Minnesota has the additional need, also. More children are coming in from all over the world; children who need English second-language skills; children who are without any education from countries that have been war ravaged for years; children coming from other States with educational achievement levels grades behind the students in Minnesota.

We cannot offer the services they are entitled to under Federal law that existed before No Child Left Behind? We cannot offer the services that were promised to them and to us as a condition for voting in favor of No Child Left Behind? I voted against that, I will confess, as did my colleague at the time in the Senate. Maybe that is why Minnesota is being singled out and punished. I do not know. I do not understand why, except that I know the two Senators from Massachusetts—one is the ranking member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and he certainly made a com-

mitment to this program at the time because he was assured there was going to be full funding; the other Senator, of course, is now the Democratic candidate for President of the United States. I find it really not coincidental that is one of the two States that is singled out to be cut back in funds.

But I do not understand why Minnesota—why Minnesota—is suffering accordingly. It is wrong. It is wrong to be cutting back funds when you are saying to the American people that no child is going to be left behind and then you turn around and make that a lie. It is wrong. It is unfair to the State of Minnesota.

Mr. Secretary of Education, you owe it to our State to come back and explain to our educators why it is that they are going to have to do more with less next year. Why is it that we are one of two States being cut back?

I am deeply offended. On behalf of the people of Minnesota, I am enraged that we are being treated in this unfair way—and on behalf, most of all, of the children in the State of Minnesota who are not going to be receiving the special services to which they are entitled. We are going to force cutbacks in educational services affecting all of our schoolchildren. They are being left behind, Mr. Secretary. Mr. President, they are being left behind. What are you going to do about it?

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Maryland is recognized for up to 10 minutes.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR ROBERT C. BYRD

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, earlier in the day, a number of my colleagues took the floor to pay tribute and respect to my dear friend and colleague, Senator BYRD. I was unable to be here because I was involved in a markup of legislation. I want to take a few moments now, as we bring the day's business to a close, to pay tribute to my very good friend on the occasion of his 17,000th vote in the Senate, an all-time record.

The distinguished Senator from West Virginia has given this Nation and his beloved State of West Virginia the very best in public service. The civility, the intelligence, the commitment, and dedication that Senator BYRD brings to this body commands the respect and admiration of every Member of the Senate. That has been expressed from time to time by many of us in this Chamber.

The vote today is but one of many milestones for Senator BYRD, but it does offer all of us the opportunity to reflect upon his very special place in the Senate.

Senator BYRD often refers to the Senate as a "pillar of the Constitution." I think it is fair to refer to Senator BYRD as a "pillar of the Senate." The Senator's dedication to this body and

its history—he has written, after all, the definitive history of the U.S. Senate—its customs and its procedures are unequalled by any other Member I have known. And his dedication to the Senate ranks with his dedication to the country, to the State of West Virginia, and to the Constitution.

As this body's indisputable expert on parliamentary procedure, it is only fitting that Senator BYRD's first vote, the first of the 17,000 votes that we celebrate today, was cast on January 8, 1959, and was procedural in nature. That vote began, of course, a legacy of extraordinary leadership and service in this body.

The able Senator from West Virginia has not only employed his mastery of how the Senate functions effectively in floor debates, but he has used it to pass on and protect and perfect the spirit of this body which he has called "the cornerstone of our constitutional system."

Given this incredible record of service and experience, Senator BYRD now, I think fairly, stands as both the intellect and the conscience of this Chamber. He constantly reminds us of the fundamentals of our democracy and the role the Framers of our Constitution envisioned for the legislative branch.

No Member of the U.S. Congress has a deeper understanding of the Constitution and of the Legislature's vital function as a guardian of our fundamental national document.

It is because of this institutional knowledge, his devotion to the Senate's distinguishing characteristics, and his devotion to the civility that has customarily underpinned the interaction of the Members of this body that in times of severe national crisis, and on occasion constitutional crisis when the Senate is faced with the most difficult of choices, Members from both sides of the aisle have sought the leadership of Senator ROBERT C. BYRD of West Virginia.

I consider it a singular honor to serve with him in the Senate. I congratulate him on casting his 17,000th vote, and I look forward to seeing him cast many more.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 9 a.m., Friday, April 2, 2004.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:12 p.m., adjourned until Friday, April 2, 2004, at 9 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 1, 2004:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

OTIS WEBB BRAWLEY, JR., OF GEORGIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 20, 2009. (REAPPOINTMENT)