

During the committee's consideration of this bill, I offered an amendment with Senator SANDERS to allow more States to participate in the innovative assessment program and to give participating school districts more time to scale up their systems statewide. Our amendment passed unanimously in committee, and I thank Chairman ALEXANDER and Ranking Member MURRAY for continuing to work with me to refine and improve this pilot program.

The bottom line is that Washington should not be imposing a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to assessment. What works in Chicago may not be the answer for Turner, ME, which was named a Blue Ribbon School last year. Assessing the progress of our students is critical, but there are many effective ways to determine students' level of learning.

Fifty years ago and alongside significant civil rights legislation, Congress first passed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to improve access to education, particularly for the students from low-income families. Providing a good education for every child must remain a national priority so that each child reaches his or her full potential, has a wide range of opportunities, and can compete in an increasingly global economy. The Every Child Achieves Act honors those guiding principles while returning greater control and flexibility to our States, to local school boards, and to educators.

Again, I thank the chairman and the ranking member of the committee for their work in crafting this bipartisan bill. I look forward to the debate on it in the week to come, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

REMEMBERING ELDER BOYD K. PACKER

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Elder Boyd K. Packer, president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Latter-day Saints, who passed away on July 3, 2015, at the age of 90.

Boyd K. Packer was both a man of principle and a man who knew the power of principles. He taught that talking about principles and doctrines changes behavior far better than talking about behavior changes behavior. He boldly stood as a "watchman on the tower," proclaiming the principles that lead to faithful families, strong communities, and ultimately better nations.

Trained as an educator, Elder Packer was truly a teacher first, last, and always. Whether interacting with an individual, speaking in front of thousands, writing one of his many insightful books, or simply spending time with one of his beloved children, he was forever teaching. And to be clear, he wasn't preaching; he was teaching—

teaching principles that would instruct, inspire, and improve all who came within the sound of his distinct and powerful voice.

Boyd K. Packer understood the important influence of simple stories in teaching. He masterfully wove priceless principles into powerful modern-day parables, keen observations from everyday living, and spiritual lessons that were meaningful and memorable. Experiences such as tuning an old radio, getting his boys to stop wrestling in the living room, visiting a small church in Denmark, carving and painting birds, learning about crocodiles in Africa, or observing the pleadings for help from an orphan boy while serving as a serviceman in Japan, all emerged as foundational stories from which to teach life-changing principles.

Faith and family were always at the center of Elder Packer's teaching, and he often illustrated that the intersection of faith and family is where critical lessons are taught. He illustrated that this intersection between faith and family is precisely where critical lessons are taught and learned and where children are prepared to live nobly and serve selflessly.

In describing how to prepare children for the challenges of life, he thought that children should be provided with a shield of faith and that forming that shield of faith was of necessity a cottage industry. In his own words:

We can teach about the materials from which a shield of faith is made: reverence, courage, repentance, forgiveness, compassion. . . . We can learn how to assemble and fit them together in many places. But the actual making of and fitting on of the shield of faith belongs in the family circle. Otherwise it may loosen and come off in a crisis.

As a "watchman on the tower," Boyd K. Packer was perpetually ahead of his time. He could see around difficult societal corners and had a clear view of the blessings and benefits that flow from principled living. What some may have interpreted as a stern and serious speaking style was simply Elder Packer teaching out of both love and urgency because he could see and he could sense what was on the horizon.

It has been said that the ability to see ahead is both a blessing and a tremendous burden. It is a blessing because you can prepare, and it is a burden because often the people you are trying to help can't see what you can see. Elder Packer's ability to see ahead was unrivaled, occasionally underestimated, but always an unmatched lesson for those who chose to follow the visionary principles he taught.

Elder Packer was indeed a master teacher because he followed, he studied, and he came to know the Master Teacher.

I am confident that the principles Boyd K. Packer shared with the world will continue to impact and improve behavior for generations to come.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES BILLINGTON

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, at the end of this year, Congress will say farewell to Dr. James Billington, a dear friend who, for the last 28 years, has dedicated his life to ensuring that the Nation's most prominent library is an unparalleled resource for all who visit, either in person or online. Since his nomination by President Reagan in 1987 and subsequent confirmation by the United States Senate, Dr. Billington has led the Library of Congress into the digital era, and expanded its relationships internationally and with the private sector.

For almost three decades, Dr. Billington championed the National Digital Library program, which made millions of rare and one-of-a-kind historical and cultural documents readily available to the public. The National Digital Library was a colossal undertaking and one that students and scholars alike will utilize for many years to come.

In 1990, Dr. Billington created the James Madison Council, an advisory panel that serves as a liaison between the Library and the business community. The Council was the Library's first national private-sector advisory and support group, and has since helped to fund more than 360 projects. Dr. Billington's devotion to the growth and development of the Library of Congress has helped bring a national treasure into the 21st Century and improve access for people all over the country and the world.

Dr. Billington has also worked to expand the Library of Congress' online resources by collaborating with Russian libraries to establish a major bilingual website. He later completed similar joint projects with the national libraries of Brazil, Spain, France, the Netherlands, and Egypt. Dr. Billington spearheaded efforts to create the World Digital Library, which was successfully launched in April 2009. Today, the site contains cultural materials from all 193 countries in the United Nation's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO, with commentary in seven languages. As the Librarian of Congress, Dr. Billington led a delegation to Tehran, Iran, in October 2004, making him the most senior U.S. government official to visit Iran in 25 years and furthering his international leadership.

Throughout his 42 years in public service in Washington, Dr. Billington has collaborated on numerous programs such as the Veterans History Project, highlighting the great accomplishments of countless Americans