

labor includes forced or indentured child labor; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MACK (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 282. A bill to provide that no electric utility shall be required to enter into a new contract or obligation to purchase or to sell electricity or capacity under section 210 of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 283. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a partial exclusion from gross income for individuals and interest received by individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

S. 284. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the marriage penalty by increasing the standard deduction for married individuals filing joint returns to twice the standard deduction for unmarried individuals; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCAIN (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. WELLSTONE, and Mr. BREAU):

S. 285. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to restore the link between the maximum amount of earnings by blind individuals permitted without demonstrating ability to engage in substantial gainful activity and the exempt amount permitted in determining excess earnings under the earnings test; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MCCAIN:

S. 286. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code to repeal the increase in the tax on social security benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROTH (for himself and Mr. BIDEN):

S. 287. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to require the establishment of a regional or branch office of the Small Business Administration in each State; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KERREY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 288. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from income certain amounts received under the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and F. Edward Hebert Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship and Financial Assistance Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. HUTCHINSON, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 289. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to permit faith-based substance abuse treatment centers to receive Federal assistance, to permit individuals receiving Federal drug treatment assistance to select private and religiously oriented treatment, and to protect the rights of individuals from being required to receive religiously oriented treatment; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Ms. LANDRIEU):

S. 290. A bill to establish an adoption awareness program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DOMENICI (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 291. A bill to convey certain real property within the Carlsbad Project in New Mexico to the Carlsbad Irrigation District; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 292. A bill to preserve the cultural resources of the Route 66 corridor and to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 293. A bill to direct the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to convey certain lands in San Juan County, New Mexico, to San Juan College; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. LOTT:

S. Res. 28. A resolution amending paragraph 1(m)(1) of Rule XXV; considered and agreed to.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. BROWNBACK, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GORTON, Mr. GREGG, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. KERREY, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mr. THOMPSON, and Mr. VOINOVICH):

S. 271. A bill to provide for education flexibility partnerships; read the first time.

THE EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

• Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce, with my colleague from Oregon, Senator WYDEN, The Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999. This bipartisan measure will expand the immensely popular and highly successful Ed-Flex program to all 50 states in the country. As you may know, Ed-Flex is currently a demonstration program, available only to 12 states. Under the Frist-Wyden bill, all states would have the option to participate in the program.

States and localities have waged a war on poor student performance and they need our help. For too long, Washington has dictated a plan riddled with red tape and regulation. Stagnant student performance has been the result. The longer a child is in an American school, the more his math and science skills deteriorate compared to the skills of his international peers, according to the Third International Math and Science Study (TIMSS). Out of 21 countries, the United States ranked 19th in math and 16th in science for twelfth graders.

To help our states and localities, Washington must give them the flexibility that they need in order to find creative solutions that make sense in their own communities. When localities find ideas that work, the federal

government should either get out of the way or lend a helping hand. The last thing that our schools need is more bureaucracy and federal intrusion. Education dollars should be spent in the classroom, not in the front office.

Ed-Flex frees states from the burden of unnecessary, time-consuming Washington regulations, so long as states are complying with certain core federal principles, such as civil rights, and so long as the states are making progress toward improving their students' results. Under the Ed-Flex program, the Department of Education delegates to the states its power to grant individual school districts temporary waivers from certain federal requirements that interfere with state and local efforts to improve education. To be eligible, a state must waive its own regulations on schools. It must also hold schools accountable for results. The 12 states that currently participate in Ed-Flex have used this flexibility to allow school districts to innovate and better use federal resources to improve student outcomes.

For instance, the Phelps Luck Elementary School in Howard County, Maryland used its waiver to provide one-on-one tutoring for reading students who have the greatest need in grades 1-5. They also used their waiver to lower the average student/teacher ratio in mathematics and reading from 25/1 to 12/1. By granting localities more flexibility to use resources already allocated, Ed-Flex allows local decision-makers to decide for themselves how to best tailor federal programs to meet the needs of their own schools.

As the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee Task Force on Education, formed by Budget Chairman PETE DOMENICI, I heard first-hand accounts of the success of the Ed-Flex program and the need for flexibility for our states that are overburdened by federal requirements. Secretary Riley told the Task Force that, "through our Ed-Flex demonstration initiative, we are giving State-level officials broad authority to waive federal requirements that present an obstacle to innovation in their schools." The Department of Education further notes, "Ed-Flex can help participating states and local school districts use federal funds in ways that provide maximum support for effective school reform based on challenging academic standards for all students."

Recent GAO reports have questioned whether Ed-Flex has addressed or can address all of the concerns that local schools and school districts have regarding the regulatory and administrative requirements that federal education programs impose. GAO is definitive in its answer: Ed-Flex hasn't and it won't. We certainly do not believe that Ed-Flex is a panacea to our nation's educational system's woes. Nor