

this title be used for the purposes described in this title. This section shall not be construed to bar private, religious, or home schools from participating in or receiving programs or services under this title.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) COORDINATION.—Section 1202(c)(2)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6362(c)(2)(C)) is amended, in the subparagraph heading, by striking “PART C” and inserting “PART B”.

(2) DEFINITION OF COVERED PROGRAM.—Section 14101(10)(C) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8801(10)(C)) is amended by striking “(other than section 2103 and part D)”.

(3) PRIVATE SCHOOL PARTICIPATION.—Section 14503(b)(1)(B) (20 U.S.C. 8893(b)(1)(B)) of such Act is amended by striking “(other than section 2103 and part D of such title)”.

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on behalf of the Teacher Empowerment Act, which is legislation introduced by my friend and colleague Senator GREGG. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, which responds to several critical needs facing American education. In particular, it addresses teacher quality and quantity. It addresses local control of educating our children. It requires accountability to parents and students. In short, it is a plan to ensure that every child in America is prepared for global competition in the 21st Century.

The Teacher Empowerment Act recognizes the expertise of our state and local governments in educating our children. American parents trust their teachers and principals to make appropriate educational decisions for their children. In reality, Washington bureaucrats have called the shots for far too long. The results indicate that in lieu of achievement, we now have reams of paperwork and a myriad of programs to address local problems at the national level. We can and must do better.

The Teacher Empowerment Act puts decision making authority back into the hands of local schools. It encourages states to implement innovative teacher reforms and high quality professional development programs to increase teacher knowledge and student achievement. Local schools would be encouraged to fund innovative programs such as teacher testing—a concept which I have strongly supported and which this body supported last year in a bipartisan vote—as well as tenure reform, merit-based pay, alternative routes to teacher certification, differential and bonus pay for teachers in high need subject areas, teacher mentoring, and in-service teacher academies.

Our children are counting on us to ensure that they receive an education second to none. That starts with exceptional teachers and schools that are able to address the individual needs of its students. This bill returns to local schools the ability and authority to accomplish these goals. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 37

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 37, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the restriction on payment for certain hospital discharges to post-acute care imposed by section 4407 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

S. 218

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. GRAMM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 218, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for equitable duty treatment for certain wool used in making suits.

S. 329

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 329, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend eligibility for hospital care and medical services under chapter 17 of that title to veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart, and for other purposes.

S. 459

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on private activity bonds.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), and the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 484, a bill to provide for the granting of refugee status in the United States to nationals of certain foreign countries in which American Vietnam War POW/MIAs or American Korean War POW/MIAs may be present, if those nationals assist in the return to the United States of those POW/MIAs alive.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to establish guidelines for the relocation, closing, consolidation, or construction of post offices, and for other purposes.

S. 620

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. KERREY) were added as cosponsors of S. 620, a bill to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated, and for other purposes.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S.

631, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to eliminate the time limitation on benefits for immunosuppressive drugs under the medicare program, to provide continued entitlement for such drugs for certain individuals after medicare benefits end, and to extend certain medicare secondary payer requirements.

S. 659

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 659, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to require pension plans to provide adequate notice to individuals whose future benefit accruals are being significantly reduced, and for other purposes.

S. 666

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 666, a bill to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa.

S. 693

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to assist in the enhancement of the security of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 796

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 796, a bill to provide for full parity with respect to health insurance coverage for certain severe biologically-based mental illnesses and to prohibit limits on the number of mental illness-related hospital days and outpatient visits that are covered for all mental illnesses.

S. 1022

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1022, a bill to authorize the appropriation of an additional \$1,700,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 for health care for veterans.

S. 1144

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1144, a bill to provide increased flexibility in use of highway funding, and for other purposes.

S. 1187

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1187, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and for other purposes.

S. 1214

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms.

COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1214, a bill to ensure the liberties of the people by promoting federalism, to protect the reserved powers of the States, to impose accountability for Federal preemption of State and local laws, and for other purposes.

S. 1232

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1232, a bill to provide for the correction of retirement coverage errors under chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code.

S. 1296

At the request of Mr. HELMS, his name was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 1296, a bill to designate portions of the lower Delaware River and associated tributaries as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

S. 1312

At the request of Mr. HOLLINGS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1312, a bill to ensure full and expeditious enforcement of the provisions of the Communications Act of 1934 that seek to bring about competition in local telecommunications markets, and for other purposes.

S. 1317

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1317, a bill to reauthorize the Welfare-To-Work program to provide additional resources and flexibility to improve the administration of the program.

S. 1334

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1334, a bill to amend chapter 63 of title 5, United States Code, to increase the amount of leave time available to a Federal employee in any year in connection with serving as an organ donor, and for other purposes.

S. 1438

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1438, a bill to establish the National Law Enforcement Museum on Federal land in the District of Columbia.

S. 1440

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1440, a bill to promote economic growth and opportunity by increasing the level of visas available for highly specialized scientists and engineers and by eliminating the earnings penalty on senior citizens who continue to work after reaching retirement age.

S. 1464

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1464, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish certain requirements regarding the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 95

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 95, a resolution designating August 16, 1999, as "National Airborne Day."

AMENDMENT NO. 1062

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1062 intended to be proposed to S. 1233, an original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1489

At the request of Mr. ENZI the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1489 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2466, a bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1495

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1495 intended to be proposed to S. 1233, an original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1499

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1499 proposed to S. 1233, an original bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

ABRAHAM AMENDMENT NO. 1502

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ABRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 1233) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 68, line 5, before the period insert the following: " , or the Food and Drug Administration Detroit, Michigan District Office Laboratory; or to reduce the Detroit Michigan Food and Drug Administration District Office below the operating and fulltime equivalent staffing level of July 31, 1999; or to change the Detroit District Office to a station, residence post or similarly modified office; or to reassign residence posts assigned to the Detroit District Office."

ROBERTS AMENDMENTS NOS. 1503-1504

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. ROBERTS submitted two amendments intended to be proposed by him to the bill, S. 1233, supra; as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1503

On page 76, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

SEC. 7. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES ON CRP ACREAGE.—None of the funds made available by this Act shall be used to implement Notice CRP-327, issued by the Farm Service Agency on October 26, 1998.

AMENDMENT NO. 1504

On page 76, between lines 6 and 7, insert the following:

SEC. 7. SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING ACCESS TO ITEMS AND SERVICES UNDER THE MEDICARE PROGRAM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds the following:

(1) Total hospital operating margins with respect to items and services provided to medicare beneficiaries are expected to decline from 4.3 percent in fiscal year 1997 to negative 4.4 percent in fiscal year 2002.

(2) Total operating margins for small rural hospitals are expected to decline from 4.2 percent in fiscal year 1998 to negative 7.1 percent in fiscal year 2002.

(3) The Congressional Budget Office recently has estimated that the amount of savings to the medicare program in fiscal years 1998 through 2002 by reason of the amendments to that program contained in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 is \$206,000,000,000, exactly double the level of cuts expected when the bill was enacted.

(4) Health care providers are beginning to provide fewer health care services to medicare beneficiaries in both urban and rural areas as a result of the implementation of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

(5) The concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2000 recognized that Congress has the responsibility to review payment levels under the medicare program to