

At the request of Mr. ROBB his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 40 proposed to S. 280, supra.

At the request of Mr. NICKLES his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 40 proposed to S. 280, supra.

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 16—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION GUARANTY FEE SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED TO PROVIDE INCREASED REVENUES

Mr. GRAMS (for himself and Mr. GORTON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

S. CON. RES. 16

Whereas the Government National Mortgage Association, known as Ginnie Mae, was established as a wholly owned corporation of the United States to facilitate the worldwide sale of investment securities backed by mortgages insured or guaranteed by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or the Veterans Administration (VA), which is now the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas Ginnie Mae assesses a fee to lenders issuing such securities and notes for the guaranty, by Ginnie Mae, of the timely payment to investors of principal and interest of the securities and notes;

Whereas the guaranty fee currently charged by Ginnie Mae, at a rate of 6 basis points, has produced significant net revenue for the Federal Government each year;

Whereas Ginnie Mae is actuarially sound and its reserves are sufficient to protect the taxpayers of the United States from any loss;

Whereas the cost of home ownership is increasing, thereby making the dream of home ownership unattainable for many families in the United States;

Whereas FHA and VA loans are used primarily by first-time and minority homeowners to achieve the dream of home ownership;

Whereas Congress should seek to eliminate barriers to affordable housing and reduce the costs of home ownership; and

Whereas proposals to increase the Ginnie Mae guaranty fee above the current rate, if enacted, would constitute a tax on home ownership, would increase the costs of owning a home, and would ultimately deny many Americans the opportunity to own a home; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),* That it is the sense of the Congress that any increase in the guaranty fee assessed by the Government National Mortgage Association above the rate currently in effect constitutes an unnecessary and unwarranted tax on home ownership that cannot be justified as sound public policy or as necessary for financial soundness of the Government National Mortgage Association and, therefore, should not be used to provide increased revenues for the Federal Government to offset other expenditures.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, today I am submitting a Senate Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the

Congress that guaranty fees charged by the Government National Mortgage Association—or Ginnie Mae—should not be increased as a means of offsetting additional Federal spending. I am pleased that my colleague from Washington, Senator GORTON, is joining me in submitting this resolution.

As the Federal budget process proceeds over the next few months, there will inevitably be attempts to manipulate revenues to fund pet projects. Unfortunately, what Washington calls revenues, Americans call taxes. This resolution serves notice that taxes on American homebuyers—in this case through higher fees on the securities used to fund the loans—should not be used to fund general government.

I am pleased that a companion resolution—H. Con. Res. 10—has been introduced in the House. I urge my colleagues to join in expressing their sense that increased taxes on homebuyers to fund general government spending are inappropriate, and I invite my colleagues to add their name to this resolution.

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AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

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EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY  
PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

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WELLSTONE AMENDMENTS NOS.  
41–42

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. WELLSTONE submitted two amendments intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 31 proposed by Mr. JEFFORDS to the bill (S. 280) to provide for education flexibility partnerships; as follows:

AMENDMENT No. 41

On page 3, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

(8)(A) Part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is intended to provide supplementary educational services to low achieving children attending schools with relatively high concentrations of students from low income families.

(B) Other than fiscal year 1966, Congress has never passed legislation that provided the maximum funding authorized to carry out such part.

(C) The fiscal year 1999 appropriation for such part is less than half of the level required to fund such part of the maximum authorized level.

(D) By funding such part at the maximum authorized level, the Federal Government will provide more assistance for disadvantaged children than the Federal Government did for fiscal year 1999.

(E) The Senate is committed to funding such part at the maximum authorized level.

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AMENDMENT No. 42

On page 15, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

(F) local and state plans, use of funds, and accountability, under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, except to permit the formation of secondary and post-secondary consortia.

WELLSTONE (AND OTHERS)  
AMENDMENT NO. 43

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. WELLSTONE (for himself, Mr. REED, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to amendment No. 31 proposed by Mr. JEFFORDS to the bill, S. 280, supra; as follows:

On page 15, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

“(F) Sections 1114b and 1115c of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;”.

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TORRICELLI AMENDMENTS NOS.  
44–45

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. TORRICELLI submitted two amendments intended to be proposed by him to amendment No. 31 proposed by Mr. JEFFORDS to the bill, S. 280, supra; as follows:

AMENDMENT No. 44

At the end, add the following:

**SEC. 01. DEMONSTRATION GRANTS.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the length of the academic year at most elementary and secondary schools in the United States consists of approximately 175 to 180 academic days, while the length of the academic years at elementary and secondary schools in a majority of the other industrialized countries consists of approximately 190 to 240 academic days;

(2) eighth-grade students from the United States have scored lower, on average, in mathematics than students in Japan, France, and Canada;

(3) various studies indicate that extending the length of the academic year at elementary and secondary schools results in a significant increase in actual student learning time, even when much of the time in the extended portion of the academic year is used for increased teacher training and increased parent-teacher interaction;

(4) in the final 4 years of schooling, students in schools in the United States are required to spend a total of 1,460 hours on core academic subjects, which is less than half of the 3,528 hours so required in Germany, the 3,280 hours so required in France, and the 3,170 hours so required in Japan;

(5) American students' lack of formal schooling is not counterbalanced with more homework as only 29 percent of American students report spending at least 2 hours on homework per day compared to half of all European students;

(6) extending the length of the academic year at elementary and secondary schools will lessen the need for review, at the beginning of an academic year, of course material covered in the previous academic year; and

(7) in 1994, the Commission on Time and Learning recommended that school districts keep schools open longer to meet the needs of children and communities.

(b) DEMONSTRATION GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education, from amounts appropriated under subsection (d) for a fiscal year, shall award demonstration grants to local educational agencies to—

(A) enable the local educational agencies to extend the length of the school year to 210 days;

(B) study the feasibility of an effective method for extending learning time within