

DeLay	Sanford	Stump
Paul	Shadegg	Thornberry

NOT VOTING—23

Becerra	Gordon	Ney
Bilbray	Hinchee	Reyes
Capps	Hostettler	Roukema
Coble	Kaptur	Sherman
DeMint	Klink	Smith (NJ)
Dixon	McCrery	Taylor (NC)
Frost	Miller (FL)	Tiahrt
Gephardt	Minge	

□ 1114

Mr. KINGSTON changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall No. 35, the recorded vote on H.R. 540, Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments. Had I been present I would have voted “yes” on passage.

Mr. MINGE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 35, H.R. 540, Nursing Home Protection Amendments of 1999, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 1999 I was unavoidably detained and was not present for rollcall vote No. 35. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 800, EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 100 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 100

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 800) to provide for education flexibility partnerships. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. Points of order against consideration of the bill for failure to comply with clause 4(a) of rule XIII are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule for a period not to exceed 5 hours. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. No amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order

except those printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII and except pro forma amendments for the purpose of debate. Each amendment printed in the Record may be offered only by the Member who caused it to be printed or his designee and shall be considered as read. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may:

(1) postpone until a time during further consideration in the Committee of the Whole a request for a recorded vote on any amendment; and

(2) reduce to five minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on any postponed question that follows another electronic vote without intervening business, provided that the minimum time for electronic voting on the first in any series of questions shall be 15 minutes. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 100 is a modified open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 800, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999, better known as the Ed-Flex bill. The rule provides for 1 hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member on the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

For the purpose of amendment, the rule makes in order the amendment in the nature of a substitute of the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill. The Ed-Flex bill is truly bipartisan legislation which has the support of Republicans and Democrats alike in the House and Senate, as well as the support of all 50 Governors.

Despite the popularity of Ed-Flex, we have witnessed some try to undermine this bipartisan effort by diverting attention away from the Ed-Flex bill to other issues which are clearly outside the scope of this simple bill. For this reason, the Committee on Rules felt it was reasonable to ask Members to preprint their amendments in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The chairman of the Committee on Rules announced this preprinting requirement on Thurs-

day, so all Members have been properly notified of this policy.

In addition, the committee felt that placing a reasonable time limit on the consideration of the Ed-Flex bill would encourage those who have concerns about H.R. 800 to prioritize their amendments and focus on constructive changes, rather than partisan tactics. Therefore, the rule before us contains a 5-hour time limit on the amendment process, which is considerably more generous than the 3-hour time limit requested by the Committee on Education and the Workforce itself.

With the exception of these reasonable parameters designed to focus the debate on the issue at hand, the rule is open, in the tradition of every other rule reported by the Committee on Rules this year. Let me be clear. Any member who has a concern about this legislation may offer any amendment on the floor, as long as it is germane and has been printed in the RECORD.

In addition to the amendment process, the rule provides a final opportunity for the minority to make changes to the bill through a motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Further, in the interest of facilitating consideration of this popular bill by the House, the rule waives clause 4(a) of rule XIII, requiring a 3-day layover of the committee report. And, for the convenience of Members, the rule allows the chairman of the Committee of the Whole to postpone votes and reduce voting time to 5 minutes, as long as the postponed vote follows a 15-minute vote.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans agree that the education of our Nation's children must be a top priority. Education is the foundation on which the future of our country rests. While many of our community schools are shining examples of success, others are miserably failing in their attempts to teach even the most basic skills to our young students.

Unfortunately, there is no magic pill that we can give our neediest schools to bring them up to par, but the very least we can do is to remove some of the obstructions which are blocking their path to improvement.

The fact is that the Federal Government has a stranglehold on our local schools, and the Ed-Flex bill loosens the government's grip. By easing the burden of Federal regulation and clearing away the red tape, Ed-Flex allows States to pursue effective school reform. The Ed-Flex program is founded on the principle of trust, trust in our State and local leaders, who we believe will make good choices for their communities.

Currently, 12 States are participating in the existing Ed-Flex demonstration program, including my own State of Ohio. The positive results in Ohio and 11 other States strongly suggest that