

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may speak as in morning business for no more than 10 minutes.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire pertaining to the introduction of S. Con. Res. 87 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

RECESS

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2 p.m. today.

There being no objection, at 1:08 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2:02 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. BUNNING).

AFFORDABLE EDUCATION ACT OF 1999—Continued

AMENDMENT NO. 2825

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, with respect to the series of stacked votes that are about to begin, there be 2 minutes equally divided prior to each vote for closing remarks.

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

Mr. COVERDELL. It is my understanding the first vote we are about to proceed to is the Abraham amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct. The yeas and nays have not been asked for.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, very briefly, this amendment would essentially expand the tax deductibility and create a tax credit for the donation of used computer equipment to schools in this country.

It enjoys strong bipartisan support, both in the freestanding bill as well as this amendment. What this will help us to do is address the problem of the digital divide by providing more hardware and software and other computer services and equipment to the public schools of this country to help improve

the ratio of computers to students in our public school system.

We look forward to continuing to work on this digital divide challenge, but this legislation will move us in the right direction. I encourage my colleagues to support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Who seeks recognition?

Mr. REID. We yield back our time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2825. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 96, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 18 Leg.]

YEAS—96

Abraham	Feingold	Lott
Akaka	Feinstein	Lugar
Allard	Fitzgerald	Mack
Ashcroft	Frist	McConnell
Baucus	Gorton	Mikulski
Bayh	Graham	Moynihan
Bennett	Gramm	Murkowski
Biden	Grams	Murray
Bingaman	Grassley	Reed
Boxer	Gregg	Reid
Breaux	Hagel	Robb
Brownback	Harkin	Roberts
Bryan	Hatch	Rockefeller
Bunning	Helms	Roth
Burns	Hollings	Santorum
Byrd	Hutchinson	Sarbanes
Campbell	Hutchison	Schumer
Chafee, L.	Inhofe	Sessions
Cleland	Inouye	Shelby
Cochran	Jeffords	Smith (NH)
Collins	Johnson	Smith (OR)
Coverdell	Kennedy	Snowe
Craig	Kerrey	Specter
Crapo	Kerry	Stevens
Daschle	Kohl	Thomas
DeWine	Kyl	Thompson
Dodd	Landrieu	Thurmond
Domenici	Lautenberg	Torricelli
Dorgan	Leahy	Voinovich
Durbin	Levin	Warner
Edwards	Lieberman	Wellstone
Enzi	Lincoln	Wyden

NAYS—2

Conrad Nickles

NOT VOTING—2

Bond McCain

The amendment (No. 2825) was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there are now 2 minutes equally divided prior to the vote on the Bingaman amendment.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining votes in this series be limited to 10 minutes in length.

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

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I support Senator BINGAMAN's amendment to ensure greater accountability by Title I schools that are low-performing. The Coverdell bill does nothing to help improve public schools that need as-

sistance. Instead it diverts scarce resources to wealthy families in private schools, when 90 percent of the nation's students attend public schools.

Stronger accountability in the nation's education system is essential. Effective accountability measures—what business leaders call quality control—can make sure that investments in schools are used wisely and produce better results for children. Accountability is especially important in schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged students, so that all students will have the opportunity to meet high standards of achievement.

Despite concerted efforts by states, school districts, and schools, accountability provisions in title I have not been adequately implemented due to insufficient resources. In 1998, only 8 states reported that school support teams have been able to serve the majority of schools that need improvement. Less than half of the schools identified as in need of improvement in 1997-98 reported that they received additional professional development assistance or technical assistance.

We cannot afford to let low-performing public schools slip through the cracks. Schools and school districts need additional support and resources to remedy weaknesses as soon as they are identified. We should act now to make our schools more accountable for the benefit of the nation's disadvantaged students. These students have already spent too much time in low-performing schools, and they deserve better, much better. The time is now to take action to fix these schools. The nation's children deserve no less. I urge the Senate to support the Bingaman amendment.

AMENDMENT NO. 2863

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, the amendment that is to be voted on next is one I offered which takes the \$275 million per year that is the estimated cost of this underlying bill with the tax provisions and it devotes that \$275 million to assisting States to hold local school districts accountable to upgrade standards.

It is an accountability amendment. Presently, most of the States in the country have established performance standards for their schools and their students but we have no accountability provisions that are adequate for them to meet those standards. This amendment tries to solve that. It gives the resources to the States so they can solve that. I believe it is a very good amendment and it is something we all ought to support.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, at the heart of my opposition to the amendment is that it strikes the education savings account, the core of the