

and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (S. 1638), as amended, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1638

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF RETROACTIVE ELIGIBILITY DATES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FOR SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1216(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796d-5(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “May 1, 1992”, and inserting “January 1, 1978,”; and
(2) by striking “October 1, 1997,” and inserting “January 1, 1978.”

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect October 1, 1999.

APPOINTMENTS

FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER FOUNDATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 100-702, appoints John B. White, Jr. of South Carolina, to the board of the Federal Judicial Center Foundation, vice Richard M. Rosenbaum of New York.

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the majority and minority leaders of the Senate and the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Public Law 104-1, announces the joint appointment of Susan S. Robfogel, of New York, as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Office of Compliance.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2000

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until the hour of 9:30 a.m., on Tuesday, May 16. I further ask consent that on Tuesday, immediately following the prayer, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators speaking for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator MURKOWSKI of Alaska or his designee, 45 minutes; Senator KENNEDY of Massachusetts, 35 minutes; and Senator DORGAN of North Dakota, 10 minutes.

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

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I further ask consent that the Senate stand

in recess from the hours of 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy conferences to meet.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. BURNS. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will be in a period of morning business from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. tomorrow. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the military construction appropriations bill. Any amendments prior to 2:15 p.m. must be cleared by both bill managers. However, those Senators who have general statements on the bill are encouraged to come to the floor during tomorrow morning's session. Votes are possible throughout tomorrow's session, and Senators will be notified as those votes are scheduled.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

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

Mr. BURNS. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

EDUCATION LEGISLATION AND SCHOOL SAFETY

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, last Tuesday, the Senate suspended consideration of the education bill. I hope that our Republican friends have just temporarily suspended the bill, and not expelled it. We owe it to the nation's schools, students, parents, and communities to complete action on this priority legislation.

So far, we have considered only eight amendments to the bill over six different days.

When the bankruptcy bill was on the floor, our Republican colleagues did everything they could to satisfy the credit card companies. That bill was debated for 16 days, and 67 amendments were considered.

Obviously, when the credit card companies want a bill, our Republican friends put everything else aside to get it done. But when it comes to education, the voices of parents and chil-

dren and schools and communities go unheard.

We should be debating education. It's a top priority for parents. It's a top priority for communities. It's a top priority for the country. And, it should be a top priority for Congress.

It is wrong for the Senate to leave the nation's schools with so much uncertainty about whether and when they will get urgently needed help to ensure better teachers, modern schools, smaller classes, and safe classrooms.

Democrats are ready to debate and address these issues now, and finish Senate consideration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. But, we have no assurance from the Republican majority that we will be able to do so.

Clearly, there are strong disagreements about how to address the issue of education reform. But, we should all agree to make it a top priority for final action.

Republicans have made block grants the centerpiece of their education proposal. But, block grants are the wrong approach. They undermine the targeting of scarce resources to the highest education priorities. They eliminate critical accountability provisions that ensure better results for all children. The block grant approach abandons the national commitment to help the nation's children obtain a good education through proven effective reforms of public schools.

The lack of commitment by our Republican colleagues to genuine education reform is also clear in the recent actions by the Senate and House Appropriations Committee.

Both bills eliminate critical funding for reducing class size and improving teacher quality. Instead, they put some of those funds into the title VI block grant.

Both bills do nothing to guarantee communities help for modernizing their school buildings.

Both bills eliminate critical funding for helping states to increase accountability for results and turn around schools that aren't getting results.

At the same time that they expand support for block grants and eliminate support for greater accountability, Republicans are cutting funds to communities to improve education. Under the President's budget request, communities would have received a total of \$4.05 billion in the coming fiscal year to reduce class size, modernize school buildings, and improve teacher quality. The Republican bill block grants these programs and cuts total funding by \$2 billion below the President's request in the House and \$500 million below the President's request in the Senate.

Under the Republican block grant scheme, communities get less aid and parents get no guarantee that their children's classes will be smaller, that their teachers will be better qualified,