

SENATE RESOLUTION 79—DESIGNATING MAY 1, 2001, AS “NATIONAL CHILD CARE WORTHY WAGE DAY”

Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mrs. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLELAND, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 79

Whereas approximately 13,000,000 children are in out-of-home care during part or all of the day so that their parents may work;

Whereas the average salary of early childhood educators is \$15,000 per year, and only ½ have health insurance and even fewer have a pension plan;

Whereas the quality of child care and other early childhood education programs is directly linked to the quality of early childhood educators, and low wages make it difficult to attract qualified individuals to the profession;

Whereas the turnover rate of early childhood educators is approximately 30 percent per year because of low wages and lack of benefits, making it difficult to retain high quality educators, and research has demonstrated that young children require caring relationships to have a consistent presence in their lives for their positive development;

Whereas the compensation of early childhood educators must be commensurate with the importance of the job of helping the young children of the United States develop their social, emotional, physical, and intellectual skills to be ready for school;

Whereas the cost of adequate compensation cannot be funded by further burdening parents with higher child care fees but requires public as well as private resources so that quality care and education is accessible for all families; and

Whereas the Center for the Child Care Workforce and other early childhood education organizations recognize May 1st as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 1, 2001, as “National Child Care Worthy Wage Day”; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe “National Child Care Worthy Wage Day” by honoring early childhood educators and programs in their communities and by working together to resolve the early childhood educator compensation crisis.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a resolution supporting National Child Care Worthy Wage Day, which I hope will bring attention to early childhood education and the importance of attracting and retaining qualified childcare workers.

Every day, approximately 13 million children are cared for outside the home so that their parents can work. This figure includes 6 million of our nation’s infants and toddlers. Children begin to learn at birth, and the quality of care they receive will affect them for the rest of their lives. Early childcare affects language development, math skills, social behavior, and general readiness for school. Experienced childcare workers can identify children

who have development or emotional problems and provide the care they need to take on life’s challenges. Through the creative use of play, structured activities and individual attention, childcare workers help young children learn about the world around them and how to interact with others. They also teach the skills children will need to be ready to read and to learn when they go to school.

Unfortunately, despite the importance of their work, the committed individuals who nurture and teach our nation’s young children are undervalued. The average salary of a childcare worker is about \$15,000 annually. In 1998, the middle 50 percent of child care workers and pre-school teachers earned between \$5.82 and \$8.13 an hour, according to the Department of labor. The lowest 10 percent of childcare workers were paid an hourly rate of \$5.49 or less. Only one third of our nation’s childcare workers have health insurance and even fewer have pension plans. This grossly inadequate level of wages and benefits for childcare staff has led to difficulties in attracting and retaining high quality caretakers and educators. As a result, the turnover rate for childcare providers is 30 percent a year. This high turnover rate interrupts consistent and stable relationships that children need to have with their caregivers.

If we want our children cared for by qualified providers with higher degrees and more training, we will have to make sure they are adequately compensated. Otherwise, we will continue to lose early childhood educators with BA degrees to kindergarten and first grade, losing some of our best teachers of young children from the early years of learning.

In order to bring attention to childcare workers, I am sponsoring a resolution that would designate May 1st as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day. On May 1st each year, childcare providers and other early childhood professionals nationwide conduct public awareness and education efforts highlighting the importance of good early childhood education.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of the work and professionalism that childcare workers provide and the need to increase their compensation accordingly. The nation’s childcare workforce, the families who depend on them, and the children they care for, deserve our support.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 355. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 356. Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him by the bill S. 1 supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 355. Mr. ALLARD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 521, between lines 18 and 19, insert the following:

SEC. 405. AMENDMENT TO THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.

Part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Chapter 3—Improving Early Intervention, Educational, and Transitional Services and Results for Children with Disabilities Through the Provision of Certain Services

“SEC. 691. FINDINGS.

“Congress makes the following findings:

“(1) Approximately 1,000,000 children and youth in the United States have low-incidence disabilities which affects the hearing, vision, movement, emotional, and intellectual capabilities of such children and youth.

“(2) There are 15 States that do not offer or maintain teacher training programs for any of the 3 categories of low-incidence disabilities. The 3 categories are deafness, blindness, and severe disabilities.

“(3) There are 38 States in which teacher training programs are not offered or maintained for 1 or more of the 3 categories of low-incidence disabilities.

“(4) The University of Northern Colorado is in a unique position to provide expertise, materials, and equipment to other schools and educators across the nation to train current and future teachers to educate individuals that are challenged by low-incidence disabilities.

“SEC. 692. NATIONAL CENTER FOR LOW-INCIDENCE DISABILITIES.

“In order to fill the national need for teachers trained to educate children who are challenged with low-incidence disabilities, the University of Northern Colorado shall be designated as a National Center for Low-Incidence Disabilities.

“SEC. 693. SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMS.

“(a) GRANT.—The Secretary shall award a grant to the University of Northern Colorado to enable such University to provide to institutions of higher education across the nation such services that are offered under the special education teacher training program carried out by such University, such as providing educational materials or other information necessary in order to aid in such teacher training.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2002, and \$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2003 through 2005.”

SA 356. Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. AKAKA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1, to extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 619, line 6, strike "and".

On page 619, line 7, strike the period and insert "; and".

On page 619, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

"(O) activities to promote consumer, economic, and personal finance education, such as disseminating and encouraging the use of the best practices for teaching the basic principles of economics and promoting the concept of achieving financial literacy through the teaching of personal financial management skills (including the basic principles involved in earning, spending, saving, and investing).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 1, 2001, at 10:00 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on the report of the Panel to Review the V-22 Program.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Tuesday, May 1, 2001, at 9:30 am on climate change.

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet Tuesday, May 1, 2001, immediately following the first vote on the Senate Floor, in S-301 of the Capitol, to consider reporting the following nominations:

Mr. David Aufhauser, to be General Counsel, Department of the Treasury;

Mr. Kenneth W. Dam, to be Deputy Secretary, Department of the Treasury;

Faryar Shirzad, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce, Department of Commerce;

Michele A. Davis, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury;

Grant D. Aldonas, to be Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Department of Commerce;

John B. Taylor, to be Under Secretary, Department of the Treasury; and

Scott Whitaker, to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services, Department of Health and Human Services.

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

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Small Business be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate for a hearing entitled "SBA's Funding Priorities for FY 2002" on Tuesday, May 1, 2001, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on European Affairs and the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 1, 2001, at 10:15 am and 2:00 pm to hold hearings. The agendas for these meetings follow:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS—AGENDA

WHERE ARE U.S. CHINA RELATIONS HEADED?

(Tuesday, May 1, 2001, 2:00 pm SD-419)

Witnesses:

Panel 1. Administration witness to be announced Department of State, Washington, DC.

Panel 2. Ambassador James Lilley, Resident Fellow, American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC.

Mr. Douglas H. Paal, President, Asia Pacific Policy Center, Washington, DC.

Mr. Michael E. O'Hanlon, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institute, Washington, DC.

Mr. David Shambaugh, Director, Department of Asian Studies, George Washington University, Washington, DC.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS—AGENDA

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN EUROPE

(Tuesday, May 1, 2001, 10:15 am, SD-419)

Witnesses:

Panel I. Mr. Michael E. Parmly, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

Panel II. Ms. Elizabeth A. Clark, Associate Director, BYU International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Provo, UT.

Representing: Dr. W. Cole Durham, Jr., Gates University Professor of Law, Director, BYU International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Provo, Utah.

Rabbi Andrew Baker, Director of International Jewish Affairs, The American Jewish Committee, Washington, DC.

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, May 1, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on the U.S. military's capabilities to respond to domestic terrorist attacks involving the use of weapons of mass destruction.

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

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WELLSTONE. I ask unanimous consent that Kimberly Walker and Phoebe Trepp of my staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of the time that I control on this motion.

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a fellow in my office, Michael Yudin, be granted floor privileges throughout the pendency of the debate on S. 1, the Better Education for Students and Teachers Act.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), as amended by Public Law 101-595, and upon the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, reappoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy:

The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) (from the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) (At Large).

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 9355(a), reappoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Air Force Academy:

The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) (from the Committee on Appropriations), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) (At Large).

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy:

The Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) (At Large), and the Senator from Louisiana (Mrs. LANDRIEU) (from the Committee on Appropriations).

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Title 46, Section 1295(b), of the U.S. Code, as amended by Public Law 101-595, and on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, appoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy:

The Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS) (from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation); and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU) (At Large).

The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), reappoints the following Senators to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Naval Academy:

The Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) (At Large), and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) (from the Committee on Appropriations).