

tripled, with more than 700 of them operating in 23 different States and the District of Columbia, and parents in turn have given these programs overwhelmingly high marks for their responsiveness to them as consumers. Broad-based studies done by the Hudson Institute and the Education Department show that charters are effectively serving diverse populations, particularly many of the disadvantaged and at-risk children that traditional public schools have struggled to educate. And while it's too soon to determine what impact charter schools are having on overall academic performance, the early returns in places like Massachusetts suggest that charters are succeeding where it matters most, in the classroom.

Perhaps most heartening of all, a recent survey done by the National School Board Association found that the charter movement is already having a ripple effect that is being felt in many local school districts. The NSBA report cites evidence that traditional schools are working harder to please local families so they won't abandon them to competing charter schools, and that central administrators often see charters as a powerful tool to develop new ideas and programs without fearing regulatory roadblocks.

The most remarkable aspect of this movement may be that it has managed to bring together educators, parents, community activists, business leaders, and politicians from across the political spectrum on common ground in support of a common goal to better educate our children through more choice, more flexibility, and more accountability in our public schools. In these grassroots may lie the roots of a consensus for renewing the promise of public education.

We want to build on this agreement and the successes of charter schools and do what we can at the Federal level to encourage the growth of this movement. So today we will be introducing bipartisan legislation that will strengthen the Federal investment in charter schools and help remove some of the hurdles preventing charters from flourishing in every State.

Our bill, the Charter School Expansion Act, would revamp the Federal Charter School Grant Program to make it more focused on helping States and local groups create new schools and meet the President's goal of creating 3,000 charters by the year 2000. We want to increase funding for grants to new schools, which help charter operators meet the high costs of starting a school from scratch, and better target that aid to the States that are serious about expanding their charter program. Our hope is that these changes will give States that have been slow to embrace the charter movement an incentive to get on board.

In the near term, we feel this bill can be a starting point for overcoming our partisan and ideological differences and reaching a consensus on how to im-

prove our schools and safeguard the hopes of our children. This proposal has already generated bipartisan interest both here in the Senate and the House, the administration has expressed its support, and we are optimistic it will be passed next year overwhelmingly.

In closing, I would like to thank Senator KERRY and Senator D'AMATO for joining Senator COATS and myself as original cosponsors of this bill. I would urge the rest of our colleagues, if they have not yet already done so, to take a close look at some of the truly innovative charter school programs being run in your home States and around the country. And I would ask you to join us in supporting this legislation to build on all the great work that's being done at the State and local level and help us chart a new course in education reform in America.

By Mr. NICKLES:

S. 1381. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to convey lands acquired for the Candy Lake project, Osage County, OK; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

THE CANDY LAKE LAND CONVEYANCE ACT OF 1997

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Candy Lake Land Conveyance Act of 1997. The purpose of this legislation is to direct the Secretary of the Army to convey lands acquired for the Candy Lake project in Osage County, OK, back to the original landowners.

Briefly, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acquired 3,657.45 acres of land in Osage County from 21 landowners for the purpose of constructing Candy Lake. The project was not constructed, and in December 1996, the Corps of Engineers declared the Candy Lake property excess to the needs of the Federal Government.

My legislation will give each of the 21 landowners the option to purchase their original property from the Federal Government at fair market value. If a landowner, or their descendant, opts not to purchase their former property, that land will be disposed of in accordance with the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.).

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1381

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FAIR MARKET VALUE.—The term "fair market value" means the amount for which a willing buyer would purchase and a willing seller would sell a parcel of land, as determined by a qualified, independent land appraiser.

(2) PREVIOUS OWNER OF LAND.—The term "previous owner of land" means a person (including a corporation) that conveyed, or a

descendant of an individual who conveyed, land to the Army Corps of Engineers for use in the Candy Lake project in Osage County, Oklahoma.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Army.

SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Real Estate Division of the Tulsa District, Army Corps of Engineers, shall convey, in accordance with this section, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land acquired by the United States for the Candy Lake project in Osage County, Oklahoma.

(b) PREVIOUS OWNERS OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give a previous owner of land first option to purchase the land described in subsection (a) that was owned by the previous owner of land or by the individual from whom the previous owner of land is descended.

(2) APPLICATION.—

(a) IN GENERAL.—A previous owner of land that desires to purchase the land described in subsection (a) that was owned by the previous owner of land, or by the individual from whom the previous owner of land is descended, shall file an application to purchase the land with the Secretary not later than 180 days after the official date of notice to the previous owner of land under section 3.

(B) FIRST TO FILE HAS FIRST OPTION.—If more than 1 application is filed for a parcel of land described in subsection (a), first options to purchase the parcel of land shall be allotted in the order in which applications for the parcel of land were filed.

(3) IDENTIFICATION OF PREVIOUS OWNERS OF LAND.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, identify each previous owner of land.

(4) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration for land conveyed under this subsection shall be the fair market value of the land.

(c) DISPOSAL.—Any land described in subsection (a) for which an application has not been filed under subsection (b)(2) within the applicable time period shall be disposed of in accordance with the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (40 U.S.C. 471 et seq.).

(d) EXTINGUISHMENT OF EASEMENTS.—All flowage easements acquired by the United States for use in the Candy Lake project in Osage County, Oklahoma, are extinguished.

SEC. 3. NOTICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall notify—

(1) each person identified as a previous owner of land under section 2(b)(3), not later than 30 days after identification, by United States mail; and

(2) the general public, not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, by publication in the Federal Register.

(b) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—Notice under this section shall include—

(1) a copy of this Act;

(2) information sufficient to separately identify each parcel of land subject to this Act; and

(3) specification of the fair market value of each parcel of land subject to this Act.

(c) OFFICIAL DATE OF NOTICE.—The official date of notice under this section shall be the later of—

(1) the date on which actual notice is mailed; or

(2) the date of publication of the notice in the Federal Register.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 61

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] was added as a cosponsor of S.

61, a bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to extend eligibility for veterans' burial benefits, funeral benefits, and related benefits for veterans of certain service in the United States merchant marine during World War II.

S. 191

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. SMITH] was added as a cosponsor of S. 191, a bill to throttle criminal use of guns.

S. 791

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the names of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BAUCUS] and the Senator from Iowa [Mr. HARKIN] were added as cosponsors of S. 791, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to the treatment of certain amounts received by a cooperative telephone company.

S. 887

At the request of Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 887, a bill to establish in the National Service the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program, and for other purposes.

S. 1084

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1084, a bill to establish a research and monitoring program for the national ambient air quality standards for ozone and particulate matter and to reinstate the original standards under the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1124

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the name of the Senator from Maryland [Ms. MIKULSKI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1124, a bill to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to establish provisions with respect to religious accommodation in employment, and for other purposes.

S. 1153

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1153, a bill to promote food safety through continuation of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program operated by the Secretary of Agriculture.

S. 1297

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1297, a bill to redesignate Washington National Airport as "Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport".

S. 1311

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the names of the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. KERREY] and the Senator from Maine [Ms. SNOWE] were added as cosponsors of S. 1311, a bill to impose certain sanctions on foreign persons who transfer items contributing to Iran's

efforts to acquire, develop, or produce ballistic missiles.

S. 1334

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from New Mexico [Mr. BINGAMAN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1334, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to establish a demonstration project to evaluate the feasibility of using the Federal Employees Health Benefits program to ensure the availability of adequate health care for Medicare-eligible beneficiaries under the military health care system.

S. 1335

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1335, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to ensure that coverage of bone mass measurements is provided under the health benefits program for Federal employees.

S. 1354

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1354, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for the designation of common carriers not subject to the jurisdiction of a State commission as eligible telecommunications carriers.

S. 1360

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1360, a bill to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to clarify and improve the requirements for the development of an automated entry-exit control system, to enhance land border control and enforcement, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAUX] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 30, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Republic of China should be admitted to multilateral economic institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

SENATE RESOLUTION 96

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from New York [Mr. D'AMATO] was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 96, a resolution proclaiming the week of March 15 through March 21, 1998, as "National Safe Place Week."

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 61—AUTHORIZING A PRINTING

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. FORD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 61

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That (a) a revised

edition of the publication entitled "Our Flag", revised under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing, shall be reprinted as a Senate document.

(b) There shall be printed—

(1)(A) 250,000 copies of the publication for the use of the House of Representatives, distributed in equal numbers to each Member;

(B) 51,500 copies of the publication for the use of the Senate, distributed in equal numbers to each Member;

(C) 2,000 copies of the publication for the use of the Joint Committee on Printing; and

(D) 1,400 copies of the publication for distribution to the depository libraries; or

(2) if the total printing and production costs of copies in paragraph (1) exceed \$150,000, such number of copies of the publication as does not exceed total printing and production costs of \$150,000, with distribution to be allocated in the same proportion as in paragraph (1).

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 62—AUTHORIZING A PRINTING

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. FORD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 62

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That (a) a revised edition of the brochure entitled "How Our Laws Are Made", under the direction of the Parliamentarian of the House of Representatives in consultation with the Parliamentarian of the Senate, shall be printed as a Senate document, with suitable paper cover in the style selected by the chairman of the Joint Committee on Printing.

(b) There shall be printed—

(1)(A) 250,000 copies of the brochure for the use of the House of Representatives, distributed in equal numbers to each Member;

(B) 100,000 copies of the brochure for the use of the Senate, distributed in equal numbers to each Member;

(C) 2,000 copies of the brochure for the use of the Joint Committee on Printing; and

(D) 1,400 copies of the brochure for distribution to the depository libraries; or

(2) if the total printing and production costs of copies in paragraph (1) exceed \$180,000, such number of copies of the brochure as does not exceed total printing and production costs of \$180,000, with distribution to be allocated in the same proportion as in paragraph (1).

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 63—AUTHORIZING A PRINTING

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. FORD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 63

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That (a) a revised edition of the pamphlet entitled "The Constitution of the United States of America", prepared under the direction of the Joint Committee on Printing, shall be printed as a Senate document, with appropriate illustration.

(b) There shall be printed—

(1)(A) 440,000 copies of the pamphlet for the use of the House of Representatives, distributed in equal numbers to each Member;

(B) 100,000 copies of the pamphlet for the use of the Senate, distributed in equal numbers to each Member;