

ultimately enacted into law. The bill that I am introducing today, the Unfair Foreign Competition Act of 1999 will help to combat another form of illegality—the illegal subsidization and dumping of foreign products into U.S. markets, which steal jobs from our workers, profits from our companies and economic growth from our economy.

This legislation provides a private right of action in federal courts for individuals or corporations who have been injured by dumping, subsidies, or customs fraud violations. The bill will enable industries to seek relief through the Federal courts to halt the illegal importation of products.

There is nothing like the vigor of private plaintiffs when it comes to the enforcement of our trade laws. We need vigorous private enforcement—that this bill would spur—if we are to successfully chart a course between the grave dangers of increased protectionism and the certain peril which would result from unabated illegal foreign imports.

I believe the bill I am introducing today would have an important deterrent effect on the practices of our foreign trading partners. Under this bill, an injured party could file suit in the U.S. federal district court for the District of Columbia or the Court of International Trade. If dumping or subsidies and injury are found, the court would then direct the Customs Service to assess duties on future importation of the article in question.

Since current administrative remedies are not consistently and effectively enforced through the Commerce Department and the World Trade Organization, this private right of action is necessary to enforce the spirit of the law.

A reason to support this bill lies in its simplicity. We can enact this legislation immediately without interfering with or precluding more complex set of initiatives. The essence of this bill is to promote enforcement of existing trade laws and agreements, and, therefore, use our existing trade laws as our best defense against unfair foreign practices. My bill will free private enterprise to pursue remedies without delay and put a halt to many discriminatory trade practices.

I ask my colleagues to join me now in supporting this legislation to provide relief to the unfair trade practices which constrain our nation's industry. We should be proud of the many improvements made by our industrial base over the past decade. Our corporations invested capital and the quality of our products has risen dramatically; however, our nation's workers have suffered significant job losses while our corporations have tried to become more lean and competitive. Clearly our business sector and each and every American has participated in and borne the burden of improving our competitive position.

Even these significant advances however, are insufficient to compete in the

face of illegal trade practices such as dumping, subsidies, and customs fraud. The best way to handle these trade issues is to provide a private right of action which will allow U.S. industries the ability to stop foreign subsidies and dumping on the U.S. market in a timely fashion.

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

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

Mr. SPECTER. I thank the Chair and I thank my colleague from Vermont.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 7

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA] was added as a cosponsor of S. 7, a bill to modernize public schools for the 21st century.

S. 85

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFFEE] and the Senator from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU] were added as cosponsors of S. 85, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on vaccines to 25 cents per dose.

S. 98

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY], the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS], and the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE] were added as cosponsors of S. 98, a bill to authorize appropriations for the Surface Transportation Board for fiscal years 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes.

S. 174

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts [Mr. KENNEDY] and the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB] were added as cosponsors of S. 174, a bill to provide funding for States to correct Y2K problems in computers that are used to administer State and local government programs.

S. 247

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin [Mr. FEINGOLD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 247, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to reform the copyright law with respect to satellite retransmissions of broadcast signals, and for other purposes.

S. 258

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFFEE] and the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] were added as cosponsors of S. 258, a bill to authorize additional rounds of base closures and realignments under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 in 2001 and 2003, and for other purposes.

S. 271

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Pennsyl-

vania [Mr. SANTORUM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 271, a bill to provide for education flexibility partnerships.

S. 280

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SANTORUM] was added as a cosponsor of S. 280, a bill to provide for education flexibility partnerships.

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 280, *supra*.

S. 319

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 319, a bill to provide for childproof handguns, and for other purposes.

S. 331

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the names of the Senator from Oregon [Mr. WYDEN] and the Senator from Louisiana [Ms. LANDRIEU] were added as cosponsors of S. 331, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities, to establish a Ticket to Work and Self-Sufficiency Program in the Social Security Administration to provide such individuals with meaningful opportunities to work, and for other purposes.

S. 346

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit the recoupment of funds recovered by States from one or more tobacco manufacturers.

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 346, *supra*.

S. 368

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 368, a bill to authorize the minting and issuance of a commemorative coin in honor of the founding of Biloxi, Mississippi.

S. 371

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. LUGAR] and the Senator from Vermont [Mr. JEFFORDS] were added as cosponsors of S. 371, a bill to provide assistance to the countries in Central America and the Caribbean affected by Hurricane Mitch and Hurricane Georges, to provide additional trade benefits to certain beneficiary countries in the Caribbean, and for other purposes.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. KERREY, the names of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS], the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN], and the Senator from California [Mrs. BOXER] were added as cosponsors of S. 391, a bill to provide for payments to children's hospitals that operate graduate medical education programs.

S. 427

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 427, a bill to improve congressional deliberation on proposed Federal private sector mandates, and for other purposes.

S. 434

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the names of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] and the Senator from Kentucky [Mr. BUNNING] were added as cosponsors of S. 434, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to simplify the method of payment of taxes on distilled spirits.

S. 445

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD] was added as a cosponsor of S. 445, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a demonstration project to provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with medicare reimbursement for medicare healthcare services provided to certain medicare-eligible veterans.

S. 446

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. LAUTENBERG] and the Senator from Delaware [Mr. BIDEN] were added as cosponsors of S. 446, a bill to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond.

S. 459

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the names of the Senator from Arkansas [Mrs. LINCOLN], the Senator from Arkansas [Mr. HUTCHINSON], the Senator from Rhode Island [Mr. CHAFEE], and the Senator from Mississippi [Mr. COCHRAN] were added as cosponsors of S. 459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on private activity bonds.

S. 470

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from California [Mrs. FEINSTEIN] was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-exempt private activity bonds to be issued for highway infrastructure construction.

S. 477

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 477, a bill to enhance competition among airlines and reduce airfares, and for other purposes.

S. 487

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 487, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional retirement savings opportunities for small employers, including self-employed individuals.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit transfers or discharges of residents of nursing facilities as a result of a voluntary withdrawal from participation in the medicaid program.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

At the request of Mr. KYL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Joint Resolution 3, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to protect the rights of crime victims.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 11

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of Senate Joint Resolution 11, a joint resolution prohibiting the use of funds for military operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) unless Congress enacts specific authorization in law for the conduct of those operations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, a concurrent resolution expressing congressional opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and urging the President to assert clearly United States opposition to such a unilateral declaration of statehood.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

JEFFORDS AMENDMENT NO. 31

Mr. JEFFORDS proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 280) to provide for education flexibility partnerships; as follows:

In the pending bill, strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) States differ substantially in demographics, in school governance, and in school finance and funding. The administrative and funding mechanisms that help schools in 1 State improve may not prove successful in other States.

(2) Although the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and other Federal education statutes afford flexibility to State and local educational agencies in implementing Federal programs, certain requirements of Federal education statutes or regulations may impede local efforts to reform and improve education.

(3) By granting waivers of certain statutory and regulatory requirements, the Federal Government can remove impediments for local educational agencies in implementing educational reforms and raising the achievement levels of all children.

(4) State educational agencies are closer to local school systems, implement statewide educational reforms with both Federal and State funds, and are responsible for maintaining accountability for local activities consistent with State standards and assessment systems. Therefore, State educational agencies are often in the best position to align waivers of Federal and State requirements with State and local initiatives.

(5) The Education Flexibility Partnership Demonstration Act allows State educational agencies the flexibility to waive certain Federal requirements, along with related State requirements, but allows only 12 States to qualify for such waivers.

(6) Expansion of waiver authority will allow for the waiver of statutory and regulatory requirements that impede implementation of State and local educational improvement plans, or that unnecessarily burden program administration, while maintaining the intent and purposes of affected programs, and maintaining such fundamental requirements as those relating to civil rights, educational equity, and accountability.

(7) To achieve the State goals for the education of children in the State, the focus must be on results in raising the achievement of all students, not process.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY; STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The terms "local educational agency" and "State educational agency" have the meanings given such terms in section 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

(2) OUTLYING AREA.—The term "outlying area" means Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

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

(4) STATE.—The term "State" means each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and each outlying area.

SEC. 4. EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP.

(a) EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PROGRAM.—

(1) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out an education flexibility program under which the Secretary authorizes a State educational agency that serves an eligible State to waive statutory or regulatory requirements applicable to 1 or more programs or Acts described in subsection (b), other than requirements described in subsection (c), for any local educational agency or school within the State.

(B) DESIGNATION.—Each eligible State participating in the program described in subparagraph (A) shall be known as an "Ed-Flex Partnership State".

(2) ELIGIBLE STATE.—For the purpose of this subsection the term "eligible State" means a State that—

(A)(i) has—

(I) developed and implemented the challenging State content standards, challenging State student performance standards, and aligned assessments described in section 1111(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, including the requirements of that section relating to disaggregation of data, and for which local