

of this important legislation offered by Senator JAMES JEFFORDS, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Through this proposal, we seek to significantly expand post-secondary educational opportunities for high school graduates residing in the District of Columbia through the provision of financial aid to compensate for non-resident tuition rates at colleges and universities in Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This legislation is comparable in many ways to the highly innovative bill put forth in the House of Representatives by Congressman TOM DAVIS of the 11th Congressional District of Virginia. Mr. DAVIS' bill, H.R. 974, is different in scope, with national rather than regional college access, but our intent is the same. District of Columbia high school students need a broader horizon of more affordable public colleges and universities.

We would assist those students who have been admitted on the basis of their own academic achievement, and once admitted, as an example, to George Mason University or James Madison University, the U.S. Department of Education would make funding available so that the student's net cost would be the same as that of an in-state resident. I want to stress that these students would not receive preference in anyway in the admissions procedure.

I believe this is an exciting concept for the youth of the nation's capital, and one which has already been embraced by a number of important local community figures who wish to further strengthen the program with private donations.

Mr. DAVIS' legislation is on a fast track in the House Government Reform Committee, and I understand that our bill will be referred to the Senate Committee on Government Affairs. I look forward to working with our Senate Chairman FRED THOMPSON, our D.C. Subcommittee Chairman GEORGE VOINOVICH, as well as D.C. Appropriations Chairman KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON as we work our way through the legislative process.

I believe if we can all keep our focus on the common goal of improving college access for D.C. students, our local youth will turn up winners. I commend Senator JEFFORDS and Congressman DAVIS for their leadership in this endeavor, and I look forward to a healthy and productive debate as we hammer out the final form of the legislation.●

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. CONRAD, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. GREGG, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. MCCAIN):

S.J. Res. 21. A joint resolution to designate September 29, 1999, as "Veterans

of Foreign Wars of the United States Day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES DAY

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a joint resolution honoring the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States.

This resolution designates September 29, 1999, as Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day, and urges the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this important day. September 29, 1999 marks the centennial of the VFW. As veterans of the Spanish American War and the Philippine Insurrection of 1899 and the China Relief Expedition of 1900 returned home, they drew together in order to preserve the ties of comradeship forged in service to their country, forming what we know today as the VFW.

Mr. President, when many of us think about war veterans, we think about the tremendous sacrifices these defenders of freedom made to safeguard the democracy we cherish, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice. My resolution recognizes those contributions and sacrifices. It also recognizes the contributions that VFW members continue to make day-in and day-out in our communities—the youth activities and scholarships programs, the Special Olympics, homeless assistance initiatives, efforts to reach out to fellow veterans in need, national leadership on issues of importance to veterans and all Americans, and others too numerous to mention. Over the last 100 years, members of the VFW have contributed greatly to our nation both in and out of uniform in many ways.

I have nothing but the utmost respect for those who have served their country. This is an opportunity to honor the men and women and their families who have served this country with courage, honor and distinction. They answered the call to duty when their country needed them, and this is a small token of our appreciation.

The centennial of the founding of the VFW presents all Americans with an opportunity to honor and pay tribute to the more than two million active members of the VFW and to all veterans, as well as to the ideals for which many made the ultimate sacrifice. I urge my colleagues to join me in a strong show of support and an expression of appreciation for the VFW and all veterans.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I am proud to join today with my colleague, the Senator from Maine, Mrs. SNOWE, in introducing a resolution honoring the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States and commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the VFW, by declaring September 29, 1999 as Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Day.

Since its inception after the Spanish-American War in 1899, the VFW has dedicated itself and its members to im-

proving twentieth century America. The value of the contributions that members of the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary have made to their communities and to this nation cannot be overstated. After returning home from foreign service during times of war and armed conflict, these men and women have continued to give of themselves to ensure that this nation protects and maintains the democratic ideals upon which it was founded, and that the veterans and their dependents are cared for. From providing services for veterans and their families, to sponsoring community action and charity projects, the VFW strengthens not only its members, but each and every American as well.

On a personal note, I have had the unique pleasure of sharing the floor of the United States Senate with several decorated veterans, as well as enjoying the privilege of having several veterans of American conflicts on my own staff. I've also enjoyed the ongoing opportunity of meeting and working with the very patriotic citizens of Delaware whom this resolution honors. Throughout my entire tenure in the United States Senate, the members of Delaware's VFW have been, for me, a continued source of knowledge, insight, and inspiration.

Particularly with the members of our armed forces currently serving in the Balkans in mind, whom I just visited, I offer my humble recognition to all of those who have so bravely and selflessly served America in the past. I sincerely trust that my colleagues will join me in acknowledging the courage, the sacrifice, and, frequently, the sheer bravery of our members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, whose contributions to this country will be reaped for generations to come. I want to both demonstrate and convey to them my profound gratitude.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 13

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 13, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional tax incentives for education.

S. 14

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 14, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the use of education individual retirement accounts, and for other purposes.

S. 39

At the request of Mr. STEVENS, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 39, a bill to provide a national medal for public safety officers who act with extraordinary valor above the call of duty, and for other purposes.

S. 59

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 59, a bill to provide Government-wide accounting of regulatory costs and benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 171

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 171, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to limit the concentration of sulfur in gasoline used in motor vehicles.

S. 218

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 218, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for equitable duty treatment for certain wool used in making suits.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to add the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to the list of days on which the flag should especially be displayed.

S. 343

At the request of Mr. BOND, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 343, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for 100 percent of the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

S. 401

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 401, a bill to provide for business development and trade promotion for native Americans, and for other purposes.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 414, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 5-year extension of the credit for producing electricity from wind, and for other purposes.

S. 434

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) was added as a cosponsor 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. 459

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on private activity bonds.

S. 462

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), and the Sen-

ator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY) were added as cosponsors of S. 462, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Social Security Act, the Wagner-Peyser Act, and the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970 to improve the method by which Federal unemployment taxes are collected and to improve the method by which funds are provided from Federal unemployment tax revenue for employment security administration, and for other purposes.

S. 471

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 471, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the 60-month limit on student loan interest deductions.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 484, a bill to provide for the granting of refugee status in the United States to nationals of certain foreign countries in which American Vietnam War POW/MIAs or American Korean War POW/MIAs may be present, if those nationals assist in the return to the United States of those POW/MIAs alive.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) were added as cosponsors of S. 556, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to establish guidelines for the relocation, closing, consolidation, or construction of post offices, and for other purposes.

S. 569

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 569, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain farm rental income from net earnings from self-employment if the taxpayer enters into a lease agreement relating to such income.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to target assistance to support the economic and political independence of the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

S. 638

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 638, a bill to provide for the establishment of a School Security Technology Center and to authorize grants for local school security programs, and for other purposes.

S. 661

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) were added

as cosponsors of S. 661, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit taking minors across State lines in circumvention of laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.

S. 665

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 665, a bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to prohibit the consideration of retroactive tax increases.

S. 680

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 680, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the research credit, and for other purposes.

S. 779

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 779, a bill to provide that no Federal income tax shall be imposed on amounts received by Holocaust victims or their heirs.

S. 784

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 784, a bill to establish a demonstration project to study and provide coverage of routine patient care costs for medicare beneficiaries with cancer who are enrolled in an approved clinical trial program.

S. 789

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 789, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize payment of special compensation to certain severely disabled uniformed services retirees.

S. 791

At the request of Mr. KERRY, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 791, a bill to amend the Small Business Act with respect to the women's business center program.

S. 796

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. AKAKA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 796, a bill to provide for full parity with respect to health insurance coverage for certain severe biologically-based mental illnesses and to prohibit limits on the number of mental illness-related hospital days and outpatient visits that are covered for all mental illnesses.

S. 819

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MACK) was added as a cosponsor of S.

819, a bill to provide funding for the National Park System from Outer Continental Shelf revenues.

S. 820

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 820, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 4.3-cent motor fuel excise taxes on railroads and inland waterway transportation which remain in the general fund of the Treasury.

SENATE RESOLUTION 22

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 22, a resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives serving as law enforcement officers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 29

At the request of Mr. ROBB, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. BRYAN), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 29, a resolution to designate the week of May 2, 1999, as "National Correctional Officers and Employees Week."

SENATE RESOLUTION 33

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 33, a resolution designating May 1999 as "National Military Appreciation Month."

SENATE RESOLUTION 34

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 34, a resolution designating the week beginning April 30, 1999, as "National Youth Fitness Week."

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 28—URGING THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE PELL GRANT PROGRAM AND EXISTING CAMPUS-BASED AID PROGRAMS

Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. DODD, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. HARKIN, and Mr. REED) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 28

Whereas the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant Program, now known as the Pell Grant Program in honor of Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, was first authorized in the 1972 amendments to the Higher Education Act of 1965;

Whereas the Pell Grant Program has become the largest need-based Federal higher education scholarship program and is consid-

ered the foundation for all Federal student aid;

Whereas the purpose of the program is to assist students from low income families who would not otherwise be financially able to attend a postsecondary institution by providing grants to students to be used to pay the costs of attending the postsecondary institution of their choice;

Whereas in the late 1970's, the Pell Grant covered seventy-five percent of the average cost of attending a public four-year college; by the late 1990's, it only covered thirty-six percent of the cost of attending a public four-year college;

Whereas families across the country are concerned about the rising cost of a college education, and for children from low income families, the cost of college continues to be an overwhelming factor in their decision to forego a college education;

Whereas children from high income families are almost twice as likely to enroll in college as children from low income families;

Whereas higher education promotes economic opportunity for individuals and economic competitiveness for our Nation;

Whereas the Pell Grant and Campus-Based Aid Programs target aid to low income students as effectively as any programs administered by the Federal government; and

Whereas student borrowing to finance a postsecondary education has increased to an average indebtedness of \$9,700, and therefore increased grant aid is more important than ever: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress and the President, should, working within the constraints of the balanced budget agreement, make student scholarship aid the highest priority for higher education funding by increasing the maximum Pell Grant awarded to low income students by \$400 and increasing other existing campus-based aid programs that serve low-income students.

Ms. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, "Education is a social process . . . Education is growth . . . Education is, not a preparation for life; education is life itself."

John Dewey, a distinguished Vermonter, philosopher and educator wrote these words decades ago, yet they ring true today. Education provides us with opportunities to explore, to experience, to grow, and to improve. Education is a great equalizer—it affords these positive opportunities to anyone who is able and interested in pursuing knowledge. Yet often times, young people in our country are discouraged from engaging themselves in learning because of financial hardship.

It is with these thoughts in mind that I rise today to submit this Senate Concurrent Resolution—a resolution that calls on the Congress and the President to increase funding for the Pell grant program and for campus based student aid programs—programs that provide assistance to individuals with financial need to participate in higher education. I am pleased to be joined by Senators COLLINS, KENNEDY, DEWINE, DODD, HUTCHINSON, HARKIN and REED in this effort.

Last Congress we had a number of great successes in the area of education. Passage of the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 is high on that list of important education bills that the Congress authored. With bi-

partisan backing and unanimous support, the Senate adopted the conference report to accompany the Higher Education bill. It is my belief that we achieved broad agreement on this bill because we all kept focused on the ultimate goal of crafting a bill that offered all our nation's students more opportunities to pursue post-secondary study.

And in fact, as a result of this legislation, the window of opportunity for students has been opened wider than ever before. The Higher Education Amendments of 1998 lowered the interest rate for new students to the lowest level they have been in 17 years. It strengthened and improved grant aid and campus based programs. It will improve the delivery of financial aid for all students through the newly created performance based organization housed in the Department of Education. It invests in programs like TRIO and GEAR UP so that many more of our nation's young people who aspire to getting a college education will be able to pursue their dream. Finally, the bill reaffirms and strengthens the federal government's small but important commitment to graduate studies and will provide important support for our nation's neediest graduate students.

In submitting this resolution today, we have taken another step forward in meeting the goals that we set out in the Higher Education Amendments of 1998. Our resolution follows the blueprint that was laid out during reauthorization. It follows up on the important work of Senator COLLINS who sponsored the Sense of the Senate amendment on Pell grants, campus based aid and TRIO that was included in the final budget resolution.

As some of my colleagues may recall, in February I called for a \$400 increase in the maximum Pell grant. The importance of this program cannot be overstated—it is the cornerstone of our federal investment in need-based grant aid. It has helped millions of young people obtain a degree. The Pell grant has made a positive difference in the lives of individual students who received it and it had made a positive difference in the well being of our nation. Thanks to the Pell grant, more Americans have received a post secondary degree, the knowledge base of our nation has been expanded and the earnings base of our nation has increased.

Our resolution also calls on Congress and the President to boost funds for other programs that complement the Pell grant and provide needed supplementary aid to our nation's neediest students. The campus based programs are targeted to provide additional assistance to students who really need it the most. These funds often times make the difference for a student between making it through school or dropping out. Therefore, our efforts today in support of these programs are critical.

It is my hope that we will be able to work together, in a bi-partisan fashion,